

Florida

Florida State Board of Conservation
Marine Laboratory
St. Petersburg, Florida

Florida Waterfowl
A Bill For Gun Safety

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1965

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



FLORIDA

MARSH HAWK

A BIRD OF THE OPEN COUNTRY • USUALLY SEEN FLYING LOW, BACK AND FORTH OVER MARSHES, PASTURES AND GRASSY, WEEDY FIELDS IN SEARCH OF ITS MAIN FOOD OF RATS, MICE & RABBITS • THE DESTRUCTIVE COTTON RAT FORMS A LARGE PART OF ITS DIET • YEARS OF STUDY HAVE SHOWN THAT HAWKS PLAY AN IMPORTANT AND BENEFICIAL ROLE IN NATURE • ALL HAWKS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW IN FLORIDA • HUNTERS - PLEASE DO NOT SHOOT THESE NOBLE & VALUABLE BIRDS



FEMALE - BROWN
• MALE - GRAY
• LENGTH 18 TO 24 INCHES
• WINGSPREAD 3½ TO 4 FT.

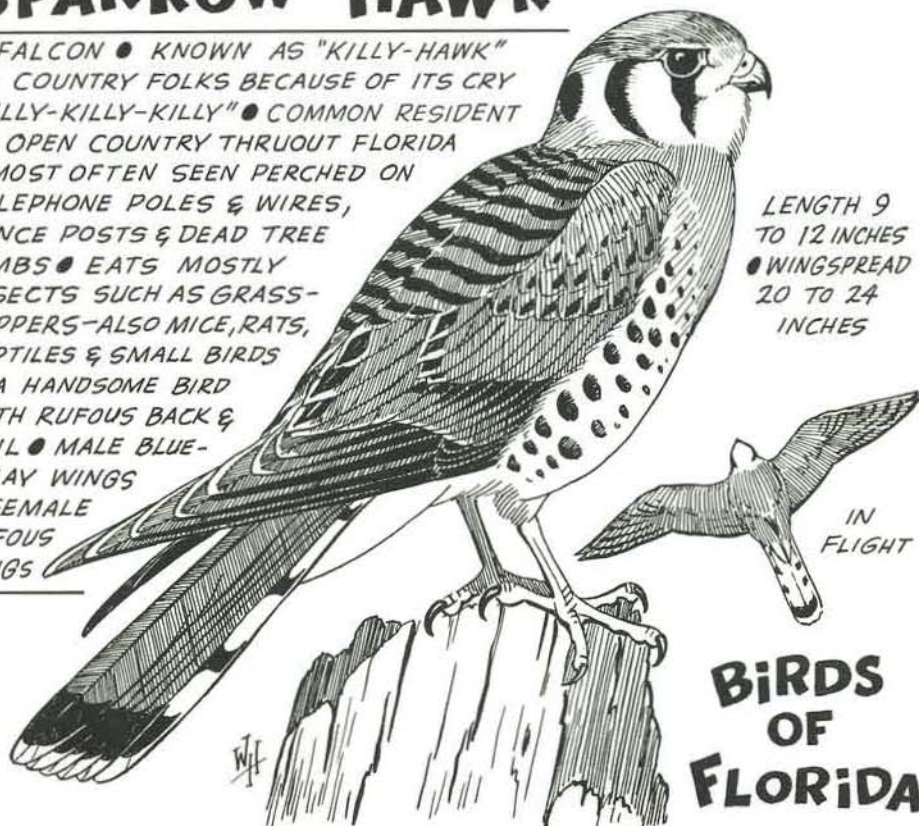
COMMON RESIDENT THRUOUT THE STATE FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY

BIRDS OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

SPARROW HAWK

A FALCON • KNOWN AS "KILLY-HAWK" TO COUNTRY FOLKS BECAUSE OF ITS CRY "KILLY-KILLY-KILLY" • COMMON RESIDENT OF OPEN COUNTRY THRUOUT FLORIDA • MOST OFTEN SEEN PERCHED ON TELEPHONE POLES & WIRES, FENCE POSTS & DEAD TREE LIMBS • EATS MOSTLY INSECTS SUCH AS GRASS-HOPPERS - ALSO MICE, RATS, REPTILES & SMALL BIRDS • A HANDSOME BIRD WITH RUFIOUS BACK & TAIL • MALE BLUE-GRAY WINGS • FEMALE RUFIOUS WINGS



LENGTH 9 TO 12 INCHES
• WINGSPREAD 20 TO 24 INCHES

BIRDS OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK

VOLUME 18 NO. 8

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JANUARY, 1965

★

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★

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★

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JANUARY, 1965

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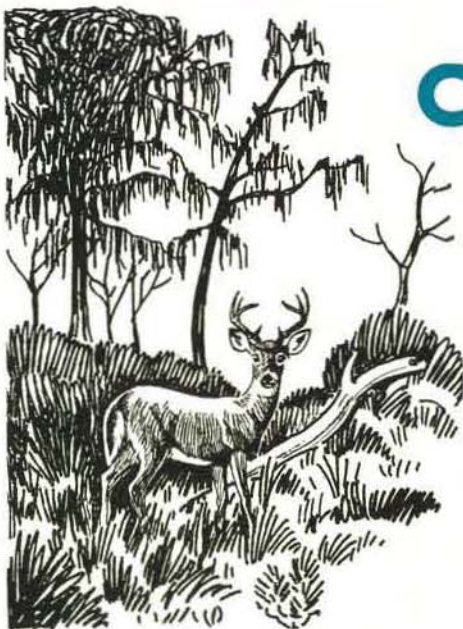
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CONSERVATION SCENE

"Waterfowl Tomorrow" hailed as most comprehensive volume on North American Waterfowl and their habitat

FRESH FROM THE printers is the "1964-65 National Shooting Preserve Directory" which lists the names, addresses, telephone numbers, facilities and other vital statistics about shooting preserves now in operation in 45 States.

Shooting preserves are popular with city hunters because they offer many conveniences such as open land, a variety of cover, dogs, guides, field transportation in some, and clay-target shooting. Game birds are stocked on shooting preserves for shooting seasons of five months or more, and some also have become year-around outdoor recreation centers and offer fishing, swimming, rifle and pistol ranges, picnic grounds, and varmint shooting. Copies may be obtained without charge from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Connecticut.

NSSF also will send without charge copies of the "10 Commandments of Shooting Safety" now in its 50 millionth copy. The little orange and green leaflet covers the fundamentals of responsible firearms ownership whether the sportsman is hunting, shooting at a range, or simply storing his arms and ammunition. Reprinted widely in magazines, newspapers, and other media, the "10 Commandments" have seen print at least a billion times,

NSSF estimates, making it the most-used piece of literature in the history of hunting and shooting in America.

It is difficult to say how effective the "10 Commandments" have been, but one measure might be a five-year study by Travelers Insurance Company on the causes of accidents in sport and recreation for which claims were paid. Hunting and shooting were sixteenth behind football, baseball, basketball, golf, fishing and others. There were fewer claims for hunting, in fact, than for recreation at theaters, churches, and concerts.

Highway Deer Kill

AN AUTOMOBILE is not a legal method of taking deer; however, during the 1964-65 hunting season more than 100 vehicle accidents involving deer will occur in Florida. In addition to the sure damage to the vehicle, and usually the death of the deer, there is always the possibility of injury to the occupants of the vehicle.

Hunting season is the most dangerous time of the year for vehicle-deer collisions. Fawns born in early summer are now roaming more as they become less dependent upon the doe. Food conditions are changing and deer will be traveling longer distances from bedding to feeding areas. Late season is a time for mating,

and the mating bucks are on the move.

Motorists are urged to use extreme caution during the coming months, particularly from dusk to dawn. Slow down! Be alert! If you see one deer, there is a good possibility that others are nearby. Reduce your speed, use your horn, blink your lights! The deer you miss may not be the one you harvest during the deer season, but it just may be the one that saves you hundreds of dollars in vehicle repairs.

A. D. Aldrich, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, pointed out that should a motorist become involved in a vehicle-deer collision, the accident should be reported to the Commission or to the Florida Highway Patrol and an accident report filed. Highways passing through areas of heavy deer concentration are posted with deer crossing signs and motorists should drive accordingly.

Waterfowl Tomorrow

THE WELL-BEING of ducks and geese in coming years depends on man today, his willingness to accept and use knowledge gained during the past three decades and his determination to learn more and to apply his findings in the future, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. That com-

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THE COVER

Red-bellied Woodpecker—An abundant resident throughout Florida, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is named for the strong wash of red on the abdomen. The female of the species, lower bird in painting, does not have scarlet coloring on top of head as does the male. Length of this bird is from 8 to 10 inches, with a wingspread of 16 to 18 inches.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

Wildlife Research

Progress Report

"OLD TIMERS" and wildlife biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will tell you that mast crops, principally acorns and palmetto berries, are of primary importance as food to white-tailed deer in Florida. They further agree that the quality and quantity of most crops affect reproduction, growth and antler development.

Gordon Spratt, wildlife biologist for the Commission, recently undertook a project to determine whether fertilizing oak trees will measurably increase acorn production. The study area for this project is located on Riverside Island located in the Ocala National Forest.

Spratt has selected five plots, four acres in size and each having twelve turkey or scrub oak trees. One plot is being left untreated while each of the other plots receives a different formula of fertilizer. Acorn traps under the trees collect the falling acorns and the data are analyzed statistically.

Final results will be known by 1966, Spratt said. At the end of this study it should be known if acorn growth can be stimulated and, if so, what fertilizers to use and in what amounts for certain soil types. As hardwoods are cleared to make room for pine plantings, the remaining hardwoods can be made to yield more food if the study indicates fertilizer will increase the mast crop.

Private landowners and hunt clubs can use this information as well as the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in an effort to improve the habitat for white-tailed deer and other wildlife. ●

Alcohol and gasoline don't mix, neither do alcohol and gunpowder. Intoxicated persons are not allowed to hunt in any national forest or wildlife management area in Florida.

Who Has The Courage?

To Walk Alone

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

ALTHOUGH AN INCREASING number of people claim the sobriquet of CONSERVATIONIST, too many have become frozen into a pattern of conformity, be they recreationists, industrialists, scientists or teachers. And although able to withstand the displeasure of opposing groups, they too often lack the fortitude to walk alone among their own kind; in other words, to be independent thinkers. Too many need the security of approbation and so would rather lose their identity and run with the pack. Conservation needs a sound philosophy as a vehicle for techniques. It follows, therefore, that anyone with the temerity to challenge the dogmas of the mighty will be misunderstood and subject to suspect.

Man's first concern is survival; creature comforts are secondary. There should never be any doubt about this premise, but neither should the motives of survival and comforts tolerate resource abuses. The basic truths that water, productive lands and clean air are still the raw essentials of life are not being met with a head-on impact. There are too many diversionary actions. They are being swept under the rug for more cheerful aspects of conservation, and so man continues to destroy and pollute his environment. Water pollution abatement has hardly gotten beyond the talking stage.

As man has achieved his security and cultural goals, he has lost contact with the elemental resources of the earth. Millions now use these resources as converted products with little knowledge of their origin, or that raw materials are still the life-line of survival, whether mankind occupies a penthouse or a bark wigwam.

Today there is too much of a tendency to evade the hard-core problems for something more glamorous, namely recreation. Outdoor recreation is much easier to sell, although certainly it has a place in the scheme of things. Its priority, however, is subject to debate. If we are to have recreation to the degree some people advocate, it must be approached as realistically as forestry and agriculture where these land-based industries are conducted at an ethical level. Many have crawled on the recreation bandwagon without finding out whether it is going in the right direction.

In some respects the recreational boom is an admittance to an industrial slavery from which people are attempting to escape. A monster has been created which people cannot continuously live with. Although created to furnish a certain amount of artificial happiness and all-round living comforts, there has been a failure in total compensation. Recreation has now become an escapist urge from things that produce unhappiness. It would be well to investigate this monster before going all out for various forms of escape. Little thought is being given to the fact that this monster could destroy itself, or that this fragile monster is wholly dependent on natural resources.

This dilemma of escape reminds me of a man I once knew who fenced in a small marsh with hurricane fence to raise muskrats.

(Continued on page 34)

Hunting-Trials-Training



By JIM FLOYD

Lack of bear hunting success due to shortage
of experienced hunters and dogs

THE SPECIAL BEAR hunts in the Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests became history at one-half hour after sundown Saturday, November 7. Reports on the two areas indicate that a total of thirteen bear were harvested during the 28 special three day hunts. Five of these were on the Apalachicola area in Liberty County, with the largest weighing over four hundred pounds. Eight bear were taken on the Osceola hunt in Baker and Columbia Counties.

This is the story as it appeared in a press release, but the real story lies not in the hunter success, but rather in the lack of hunter success and the basic cause for this condition.

According to the directors of the two bear hunts there is a marked shortage of qualified bear hunters and an even more acute shortage of quality bear dogs. The majority of the bear taken during the special hunts were killed by experienced bear hunters and especially by the experienced bear hunters that managed their own pack of bear hounds.

Walter Larkins, area supervisor for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and in charge of hunting activity on the Apalachicola area, tells of not one but a number of instances where a bear could have been taken had the hunters been a bit more alert and possessed more knowledge on bear and bear hunting.

Regional Manager Brantly Goodson of the Commission's Northeast Region, of which the Osceola National Forest is a part,

was quoted as saying, "We have bear running out of our ears and it looks as though we will have to ask the game management division to trap and move some of them before they begin to create damage."

There was a time when there was a good supply of quality bear hounds scattered throughout Florida, but today a good bear hound is about as scarce as the proverbial teeth of the chicken. This may be due to the single fact that there is not enough emphasis placed on bear hunting which in turn could be related to the fact that the bear are not as scattered throughout the state as they once were. The bear is a wilderness animal and Florida's wilderness is shrinking. The major stronghold of the bear remains in the National Forests and other large

wilderness areas. Anyway it's cut, a hunter needs a good bear dog to be classified as a good bear hunter.

A quality bear dog is an exception rather than the rule because he has to meet so many requirements that aren't faced by deer, fox, 'coon or rabbit hounds. In the first place, "making" a good bear hound runs into direct conflict with Mother Nature herself. Florida bears of course are recognized fighters and killers. To a dog closing in on a bear at bay, a slap from bruin's paw means five painful welts extending from one end of his back to the other. Dogs recognize too that a vicious bear bite results in agonizing pain and very likely death. Realizing these facts explain why fearless, fighting bear hounds are few and far between.



Good bear dogs must possess many requirements, including extreme stamina to stay on the trail, plus tops in skill and determination.

It may not take too much intestinal fortitude for a hound to keep a bear up a tree; however this is where Florida bear hunting differs from the Yankee-type. The Florida bear follow a different pattern. Instead of treeing, they instinctively strike for the thickest cover and the deepest swamp water. A bear on the run can cover some territory that would seem impassable in a remarkably short time.

The life of a bear dog is rugged and it takes an exceptional hound to pass the requirements. A good bear dog must possess a keen nose that will pick up and then hold to the scent of a fleeing bear. He must have the mental and physical stamina to stay with a bear for six to eight hours at a stretch, even though it leads through hide-eating brambles and swamp water. He must ignore any instinct to abandon the bear chase and enjoy the thrill and safety of hunting deer, 'coon or fox. He must have a voice that will carry the chase to the hunters.

All of these requirements are hard to find in one hound and it's small wonder there are but few qualified bear hounds in Florida today. Beagles are for bunnies and not for bear as it takes a lot of hound to qualify as a bear dog.

From The Bookshelf

RICHARD A. WOLTERS, author of "Gun Dog" and "Family Dog" has done it again with his latest contribution to the development of better dogs. His latest words of wisdom, wit, and dog training information are directed to the nation's duck hunters and owners of retrievers. The new book "Water Dog" is a revolutionary rapid training methods for retrievers.

"Water Dog" is written for the man with limited time who wants to train his dog himself. It provides the hunter with a speedy technique for developing a well-mannered, capable retriever by the time the first season rolls

(Continued on page 34)



There Is Still Time

... FOR THAT EXTRA SPECIAL

GIFT TO YOUR SPORTSMAN FRIENDS!

Give
A
Christmas
Present
That Extends
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Through
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Here is a 12-in-1 gift that is perfect for your relatives, friends and business associates who like to hunt and fish in Florida . . .

A hand-signed gift card will tell each friend that YOU have given them a whole year of arm-chair hunting and fishing in the Sunshine State.



MUZZLE FLASHES



Used Guns

By EDMUND McLAURIN

The brisk trade in used guns offers excellent values for the sportsman

CURRENTLY, THERE IS A brisk trade in used guns. Individuals sell and swap to each other; established firms of national reputation sell to individuals and clubs; estates (often involving large and valuable collections) are closed out by surviving family members, and many items are sorrowfully advertised simply because poor health or advancing age has ended active shooting days.

Each issue of the semi-monthly, nationally circulated *SHOTGUN NEWS* (Columbus, Nebraska) has hundreds of advertisements selling and asking for just about every type of domestic and foreign firearm imaginable.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE readers having historic or used guns for sale are advised to read the advertisements in *THE SHOTGUN NEWS* to find popular buying and selling prices for guns of like model, or consult the prices carried in *THE BLUE BOOK OF GUN DEALING*, published by Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan. In the latter publication, retail and trade-in prices are given for some 900 different guns, based on their condition. The only trouble with the guidebook is that, like the Blue Book used by automobile dealers, it primarily reflects dealer trade-in or buying prices, rather than average prices of individual sales. Nevertheless, *THE BLUE BOOK OF GUN DEALING*, used in conjunction with a recent issue of *THE SHOTGUN NEWS*, has reference value to buyer or seller.

I frankly ask FLORIDA WILDLIFE's readers not to write asking me to evaluate a gun by mail. In the first place, without seeing the firearm, accurate estimate and satisfactory reply cannot be made.

Another factor is that very often little things (sometimes unrealized by the seller) can greatly decrease the normal value of a particular firearm. In an offered repeating shotgun, for example, the barrel may have at some time been cut back (thereby removing barrel choke, despite factory stamping on the barrel), the stock may have been altered to fit a particular individual, an installed selective choke device on a pump or autoloader may have shot pattern delivery misalignment not visible to the eye, or the firearm may have good physical appearance, but be mechanically faulty or even unsafe to shoot. These things one cannot determine and evaluate without seeing or testing the gun.

There is frequently wide difference of individual opinion as to the meaning of descriptions like "good condition," "brand new," etc. Often it depends on who is selling and who is buying!

Just recently, I answered the following misleading newspaper advertisement:

For Sale—Late Model Winchester .308 bolt-action big game rifle. (Name and address).

Since Winchester's only manufactured bolt-action big game rifle is the desirable Model 70, I made fast follow-up.

But the offering proved to be a war surplus Jap rifle on which the owner had done a modest bit of gunsmithing and restocking work. When I pointed out that the advertisement said "Winchester .308 bolt-action big game rifle," the seller blithely answered, "Well, it's chambered for the Winchester .308 cartridge." . . .

Long ago, the National Rifle Association learned that it had to establish general requirements in connection with member sales of personally owned firearms to other members or to the general public. To avoid misunderstandings, the condition of every firearm advertised in *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* must now be described in accordance with the following definitions:

New: Not previously sold at retail, in same condition as current factory production.

New—Discontinued: Same as NEW, but discontinued model.

Second-hand articles take their own specific definitions, under the following NRA standard:

Perfect: means in new condition, in every respect.

Excellent:—new condition, used but little, no noticeable marring of wood or metal, bluing perfect (except at muzzle or sharp edges).

Very Good:—in perfect working condition, no appreciable wear on working surfaces, no corrosion or pitting, only minor surface dents or scratches.

Good:—in safe working condition, minor wear on working surfaces, no broken parts, no corrosion or pitting that will interfere with proper functioning.

Fair:—in safe working condition but well worn, perhaps requiring replacement of minor parts or adjustments which should be indicated to buyer, no rust but may have corrosion pits which do not render article unsafe or inoperable.

Poor:—badly worn, rusty and battered, perhaps requiring major adjustments or repairs to restore to operating condition.

Two cardinal rules should be kept in mind when buying *any* firearm, new or used: (1) the particular type of shooting for which you plan to use the gun; (2) what you can afford to pay for what you want.

If you're seeking a certain make and model, you should familiarize yourself with the gun's features and component parts by studying the manufacturer's catalog before entering the buying market.

What is a used gun worth? In dollar values, used guns in the Excellent to Perfect classifications are generally worth 75 to 85% of their listed catalog prices, scarce and antique arms excepted. The latter may be worth much more. If Very Good, a maximum of 75% is within reason. If Good, then around 50% is fair asking. Firearms in Fair or Poor condition are frequently not bargains, unless you are so mechanically gifted and tool equipped that you can do the necessary gunsmithing at nominal above-purchase cost.

Used guns—whether they be pistols, rifles or shotguns—have certain common components, such as barrels, basic frames, firing pins, triggers, stocks and assembly screws. If you know what to look for, inspection of component parts can tell you much about a gun being offered for sale.

Existing headspace is also important. In non-technical language, headspace is the tiny space that exists between the face of an unfired cartridge or shell in the chamber and the face of the breech-bolt or breech-block. Factory-provided tolerance normally is only three or four thousandths of an inch. Within a narrow margin of safety, this provided-for headspace takes care of minor variations in head thickness of cartridges or shells used. Headspace increases with hard use and wear. It demands attention when it climbs to .006 of an inch or above.

Measurement requires a special gauge.

The only cure for excessive headspace is to have factory or competent local gunsmith re-seat the barrel closer to the bolt face or breech-block, a job usually involving cutting a thread off the barrel, re-fitting and re-chambering. It is, therefore, a wise step to have your local gunsmith make headspace check of your contemplated used gun purchase.

Whatever the type of firearm being offered for sale, the barrel should be spotless. Neglect or abuse is indicated by rusted, pitted, rough or ringed interiors. A full length barrel examination should disclose no bulges or rings, and the shadow line as the barrel is slowly rotated for inspection should be straight and unbroken. The muzzle face should not be marred. There should not be any noticeable rifling wear at muzzle end or the first four inches from the breech; wear at these points affects accuracy.

A barrel bent at the end is hopeless. Replacement will cost around \$10 for a pistol; \$10 to \$30 for average rifles, and even higher figures for new shotgun and special target barrels.

Test a barrel for looseness in its frame or breech assembly by grasping barrel near the muzzle and twisting with an unscrewing motion.

Examine the stock carefully for any splits, hair-line cracks and deep gouges. Where stocks are ornamented with checkering, this ornamentation should be clean and sharp; if broken or worn smooth, you can surmise that the gun has had hard use.

Also check the stock for looseness where it joins the gun's frame. Maybe an inside edge has been broken off, or the stock screw needs tightening.

Rifle and pistol sights should be tight in their slots or mounts; not bent; their elevation and windage adjustment screws free of rust and unstripped in their threads.

(Continued on page 33)



Pistol, shotgun or rifle, insist on test firing offered secondhand autoloading firearms, to check positive function of the disconnector, that very essential part which spaces shots just enough to keep the gun from dangerously going maxim or full automatic.



Plug Casting

By CHARLES WATERMAN

IT LOOKS A LITTLE like a premium from a box of soap flakes but I believe I now own the ideal fisherman's camera.

The name of this photographic bonanza is Nikonos and it is made in Japan by the Nikon folks who build very fine and very expensive equipment, specializing in 35 millimeter gear.

It has been advertised that Nikons are the most popular of all 35 mm. cameras among the world's press photogs and I think it's true—but the Nikonos was built for divers.

It costs a little less than \$170 and is designed to go down to more than 100 feet below the surface for underwater photography. If it gets salty or muddy, the book says, you should rinse it under a cold water faucet before taking out the exposed film.

I didn't get a drip dry camera for diving because my ears pop when I so much as turn the shower on strong but I figure it should stand the rigors of routine fishing trips. Nothing is much harder on cameras unless it's hunting trips.

The Nikonos is 35 mm., in a waterproof case of black plastic. The lens is f. 2.5 (that's fast enough for nearly any photo situation) and the shutter goes to $\frac{1}{500}$ second.

The focal length of the lens is 35 mm., which means it is slightly more wide-angle than a standard lens for 35 mm. "Standard" length is around 50 mm. The shorter lens simply means you get a wider field of view. It has an advantage in that the shorter the lens length, the less critical the focusing. Since this is a guess-focus camera (no range-finder or ground glass), the shorter lens is all to the good. Almost anyone can guess distances close enough for outdoor photography. The rangefinder is eliminated for the sake of simplicity, of course.

The glass you see in the front isn't really the lens. It's simply a shield for the real lens and can be washed. If it should be scratched or broken, it could be replaced more easily than a lens.

The Nikonos takes a flash attachment. It's a real underwater camera and thoroughly sealed. Since it's small and handy, it's just what I've been looking for. With all this free advertising, the Nikon people ought to send me a lens shade or something.

A waterproof camera for underwater photography proves excellent for angling-photo trips

But don't expect to be impressed by its looks. I've seen four-dollar box cameras that looked sexier.

PARDON A BRACKISH water report in a fresh water column but it's too good to keep and it could have applied to bass as well as to a snook.

This was down in the Everglades mangrove country a while back. I was with Buddy Nordmann and Ted Smallwood. Ted was born and raised down in that country and has a national reputation as a guide. Buddy sells fishing tackle at DeLand.

It was getting late in the day and we'd found no fish so Ted finally announced we'd have to go where he had some staked out.

It was a last resort for Ted, of course. He never takes me to a place he's sure there are fish unless he has exhausted all possibilities of finding some by accident. Anybody knows it's better to find a new hole rather than to pester fish you're saving for a lean day.

But we didn't find a new hot spot so we moved into a mangrove creek Ted announced was lumpy with fish. Water was high and the sun was hot. The snook (we took Ted's word for it) were 'way back under the brush.

Buddy and I fly fished the creek as carefully as we could, getting hung up only about a third of the time on our backcasts. The creek was a little narrow. We couldn't catch any snook.

Then Ted borrowed my rod. I gave it to him reluctantly because he is a 200-pound rod-testing laboratory. When Ted Smallwood starts fishing with a rod, I understand they close the factory for a moment of silence.

It isn't that Ted isn't a good caster. He is. He just figures there's no use rowing over to a mangrove to get unhung if you can pull up the mangrove or break the branch.

And Ted figures if a fish is back under there that's where he wants the fly, even if he has to snap it through a 6-inch gap. If it doesn't get through the first time, he yanks it loose and tries again until either the mangrove or the tackle gives out.

All of this makes quite a commotion and at a distance it sometimes looks like a man fighting snakes



Designed for divers, but fine for fishermen, the Nikonos is a waterproof camera that should thrive on rough usage. That isn't a lens in front, but a protective waterproof glass cover.

with a bull whip; but under certain conditions it attracts fish.

A snoozing snook back under the bushes 10 feet from open water takes little interest in a fly or plug worked out at the edge of his private forest.

But when his mangrove tree shakes a little and there are funny noises at the surface for several minutes at a stretch, he may come up just to see what's going on. Just as he comes out to look, Ted yanks the fly loose from a limb and splats it on the water. Then he lets it sink a couple of feet right in front of the snook's nose.

So the trip out shouldn't be a total waste, the snook opens his mouth and inhales and Ted, using a 12-pound leader, yanks 11½ pounds on the snook's jaw. He pulls the snook's head to the surface before the snook can find the reverse button and the fish is in the boat and released again before he is quite sure it wasn't just an especially strong minnow instead of a streamer.

Ted did that three times. The last fish was a 14-pounder who pulled so hard I couldn't row away. I missed the water with an oar and fell off the seat, losing the oar over the side.

It is interesting to watch a man hold a 14-pound snook's head at the surface on a 4-ounce fly rod, especially when it is your rod and it gives off snapping and cracking noises all the time.

After Ted had the 14-pounder in the boat and turned it loose again we quit. Neither Buddy nor I could think of anything else that could happen anyway.

But my point is that in this particular case there was a unique situation. The slapping and yanking on the mangrove branches got the snook to move out. The slowly sinking streamer made him hungry. I doubt if any other type of approach would have worked quite as well.

IN STRANGE COUNTRY when traveling by boat through a swamp or narrow creeks, wise wanderers frequently mark their way so they'll get back home.

Bits of rag are most popular and many a fisherman has sacrificed a handkerchief or shirttail to be sure he'd find his way out.

Some time ago, I recommended tinfoil for this purpose. You can simply take the foil in your hand, reach out and grab a branch and leave a fairly permanent marker. Some have withstood the weather for years.

Both of these markers can be removed easily by someone who doesn't care whether you get out or not.

Far as I'm concerned, the latest and best back country marking device is a squirt can of paint. Re-decorating the entire outdoors isn't aesthetically desirable but just a little squirt at the right place is hardly noticeable unless you know what you're looking for.

That's what caused those pale pink spots on the trees. It isn't blight.

I'VE DRUNK A LOT of water that wasn't fit to wash in and, usually, it wasn't necessary—just a result of carelessness. I'd go fishing somewhere without a water jug and get so thirsty I'd drink anything that wasn't thick enough to walk on.

It never killed me but as I look back on it, it probably didn't do me any good. There have been several times when I've been under the weather and didn't blame it on the undoubtedly polluted water I'd been drinking.

There isn't as much creek and lake water drunk in the South as in the North, simply because cold water tastes better than warm water and you'll slurp up cold stuff you wouldn't touch if it was warm.

With more pesticides and people, backwoods water is riskier than ever. Nobody can identify pure water by looking at it. However, everybody is now so used to iced thermos jugs that there's much less inclination to scoop up a handful of creek water.

Halazone tablets are not expensive and are relied on by many campers—although I've been told they aren't sure-fire in the South. There are other types of purification chemicals, however, and everybody recommends boiling.

THERE'S TALK ABOUT the differences between spin-casting rods and plug casting rods.

(Continued on page 32)

THE TABLE MAY BE SET but the gathering of the guests is uncertain.

They may be early, late, numerous, few. Some may sample the food and drink on the way, linger, and stay. Others will be harassed or meet with accidents on their long trip.

It is difficult to predict the overwintering duck population in Florida—or any other state, for that matter. The variables are too great.

Florida game biologists have worked and are working, however, in keeping the state as attractive to waterfowl as is possible under present conditions. Federal-aid money, through the Pittman-Robertson bill, has contributed substantially to our state's investigations of ideal habitats, harvest and population figures, and currently, to the study of water control programs that are of benefit to waterfowl.

Primarily, these projects are aimed at creating a greater hunter success in Florida. Secondly, they are concerned with sending the visiting feathered guests back up north on their migrational homing in a vigorous, healthy condition.

Ducks are classified as "migratory" and are therefore wards of the federal government, with seasons and bag limits set by this body with the cooperation of the States, Canada, and Mexico. Inventory and management efforts are coordinated so that the 10 Provinces in Canada, the 50 States in the U.S., and 29 States in Mexico may share in the waterfowl resource.

Through natural and man-made situations, the supply of waterfowl varies from year to year. And, unhappily, the trend averages slowly downward.

The uncertainty begins in the Canadian "duck factories" where frequently drought and man work alone or together to create unfavorable nesting conditions; drought by drying up the small but productive potholes and marshes, man by "reclaiming" these lands by draining or filling. One observer of the Canadian scene remarked that if man had set out to deliberately exterminate waterfowl, he could not have picked a better system.

Breeding grounds of lesser importance for the ducks that overwinter in Florida extend from the Canadian Northwest Territory down to West Virginia. In the fall, the adults and ducks of-the-year leave their breeding grounds, their departure dictated by weather conditions.

Ducks stream southward through four general routes, routes established by time and heredity. These migration paths are the Atlantic, Mississippi,

**It's research and management
against diminished wetlands,
increased hunting pressures,
and changing populations**

Florida waterfowl management is primarily concerned with improving hunter success. Waterfowl hunters are five times greater in number today than in the "good-old-days" prior to the 1930's. Survival of waterfowl hunting depends on good management practices, diligently applied, plus all the blessings and cooperation by Mother Nature.

Florida

Photo By Jim Floyd



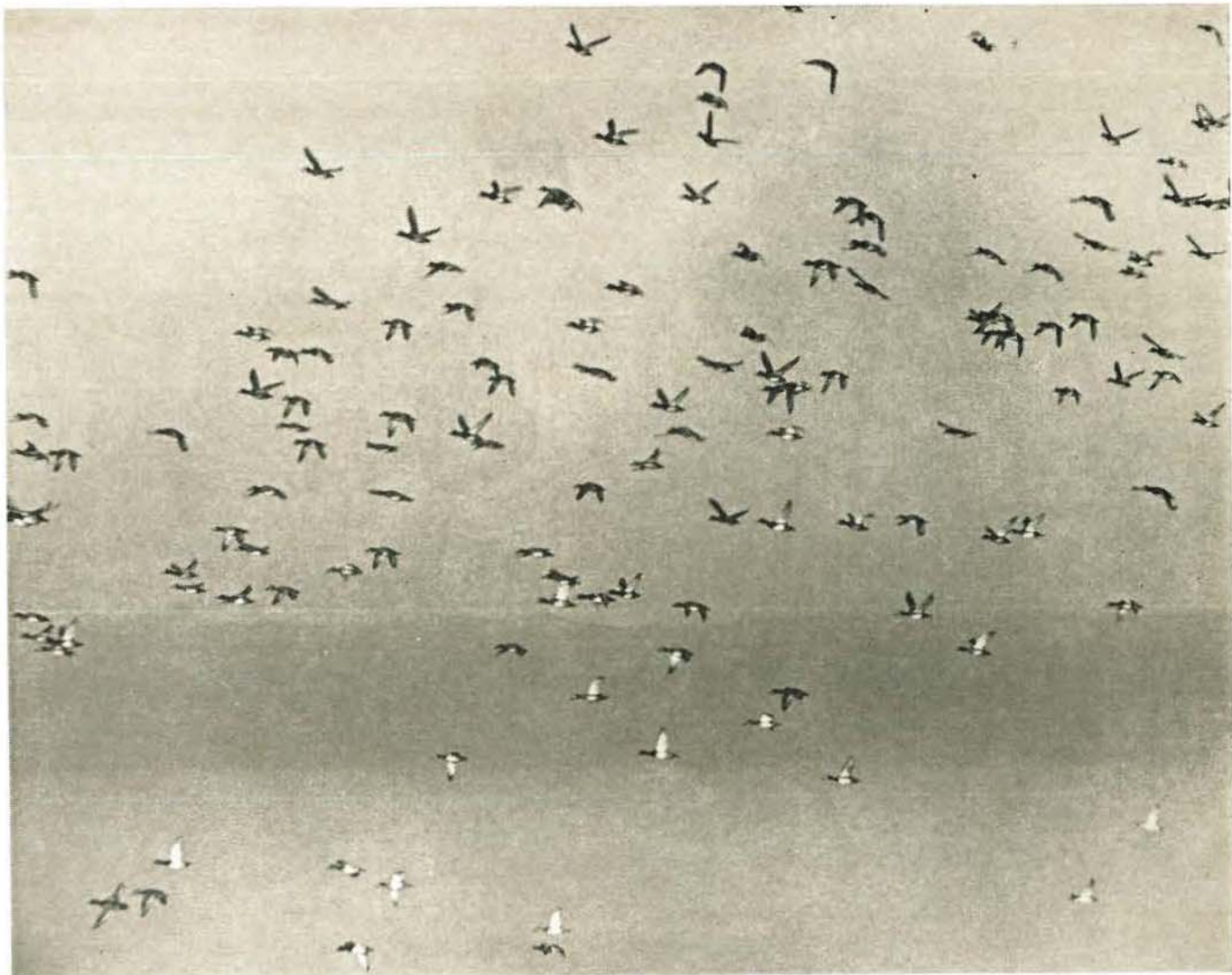


Photo By Wallace Hughes

Waterfowl

The supply of waterfowl varies from year to year depending on natural and man-made situations. Hunting seasons and bag limits are based on annual inventories by cooperating agencies of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

By ART HUTT

Central, and Pacific flyways. Florida is in the Atlantic Flyway, with waterfowl pulled down from central and eastern Canada into a funnel along coastal Virginia, then along the coast into Florida. From the tip of Maine to the tip of Florida, the U.S. portion of the flyway covers about 1800 miles. It varies in width from 300 to 500 miles, passes over 70-million people and 32-million acres of wetlands, the latter so improved by man that only 4% is of any value to waterfowl.

The Atlantic Flyway is small compared to the Mississippi Flyway. About 15% of the continent's ducks use it, 32% of the coot, and 20% of the geese.

Most of the honkers overwinter in the tidewater area between Delaware and North Carolina. Further south, migrants from the Mississippi Flyway join the Atlantic group in substantial numbers.

During the migration, of course, the waterfowl are being hunted, one out of every five shots resulting in a kill.

A Florida mid-winter waterfowl count usually shows about 1.5 million ducks, geese, and coots. Ducks account for 66% of the total, geese nearly 2%, and coot, the most numerous species of migratories, 32%.

This inventory, taken from a low-and slow-flying airplane, helps the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife determine the number of waterfowl that have survived the migration and the hunt, and with later breeding-ground inventories, helps determine the next year's season and bag.

In Florida, Pittman-Robertson projects have dug into those factors that make a duck pass over one body of water to go on to the next. Water depth,

(Continued on next page)

This is the ninth in a series of articles dealing with Florida's Game Management Division and related Federal Aid (P-R) programs, "For Better Hunting."



Florida's own—the Florida Duck—is non-migratory, residing in the state the year around. Also known as Florida Mallard, the male and female are alike in its plumage, resembling the Black Duck and female Mallard.

(Continued from preceding page)

fluctuation, cloudiness, salinity, alkalinity, hardness, pH, sulphate content, dissolved oxygen content, free carbon dioxide content, and soil type determine how much or how little the area can appeal to waterfowl, particularly in the light of what food it will grow.

A ten-year P-R study by E. B. Chamberlain grouped the state's duck habitat into five classes and eleven subtypes, each with its special characteristics which attract and support overwintering waterfowl. The same study investigated the merits and demerits of 63 common aquatic plants, with a separation of these plants into groups regarding their ability to withstand various concentrations of salinity, or their ability to withstand soft, medium, or hard fresh water.

Chamberlain found that a rise in water levels from the late summer to mid-winter decidedly improved conditions for waterfowl and supported larger populations. This applies particularly to the food-producing marginal and wet-soil areas of the marshes concerned.

From such studies a wealth of management methods evolve. Regarding salinity, in those coastal areas where such a procedure is practical, it is sometimes possible to kill out unwanted vegetation selectively by the introduction of just enough salt water. The fall-to-winter water rise discovery is being used with success. Fields are planted in corn, chufa, or millet, then flooded in the fall. This is duck paradise.

Currently, P-R projects include a continued study of waterfowl habitats and populations throughout the state.

Land-use effects on ideal duck grounds are under constant research. Drainage of our state's marshes results directly in a reduced duck population. As far back as 1950, nearly 18% of Florida was undergoing some drainage program, mainly for reclamation or improvement. Dredging and filling for residential sites have taken many ideal duck areas out of circulation.

Banding is an important part of Florida's waterfowl work. Banding reveals routes, destinations, harvest patterns, and mortality rates, adding to the 4 million case histories in the federal files. Bright dyes have also been utilized for sight reports of ducks as they migrate back to Canada.

Studies of geese in northwest Florida, the search for a strain of mallards which will become native, evaluation of hunter success on the Guano River Wildlife Management Area, waterfowl disease research, and work with the National Atlantic Flyway Councils are a few of the other phases of activity currently underway with the game biologists.

And then there is our own native bird, a real deep-south quacker, the Florida duck (also called mottled duck or Florida mallard). This stay-at-home, contrary to the migratory actions of nearly all waterfowl, ranges the 15,000 square miles from Gainesville southward. It is most numerous in and around Lake Okeechobee.

This bird is essential to the happiness of Florida duck hunters. Take a year in which the Canadian duck-producing areas have a mild, late winter. As long as the waterfowl there have open water and food, they'll stick around. But the Florida season opens in late November. The Florida duck is on hand to bear the brunt of the hunt until the migratories start to arrive. Under such conditions, the Florida duck has accounted for 45% of the early season kill, dropping to 10% at the end of the season. The usual average, however, is about 21% of the total duck kill, or 27,000 harvested per year.

The Florida duck resembles the black duck or female mallard, weighs in at about 2½ pounds, and is at home in a variety of habitats, from fresh-water ponds to brackish marshes. It was severely affected by the 1953 drought, but has recovered with the population now back near its normal number—about 50,000.

It breeds from March through July, nests from April through June. About 8-to-12 eggs are laid in nests located near water or in palmetto clumps as far as 300 yards away from water. The ridges of irrigated tomato fields are a popular nesting site.

This duck's food varies through the year. In spring and summer, it eats a large percentage of animal matter (molluscs, insects, crustaceans, fish). In fall and winter, it turns almost entirely to plant matter with 75 species of plants and their seeds included in the diet.

Since it is a native, the control and welfare of the Florida duck rests upon those in-state factors which work for or against it. Drought cannot be controlled. A few farming practices are beneficial, such as the vast irrigated tomato fields in south Florida. Other truck farming and sugarcane farming enterprises have nullified any gain, however, as have the often-discussed reclamation projects. Even converting Central Florida's Green Swamp into deep-water reservoirs, in the planning stage now, plus the many other plans for controlling those lakes and rivers within its range, will, by eliminating the shallow areas needed by these ducks, work against its continued well-being.

To aid in determining the Florida duck's population and subsequent season and bag limits, an inventory is conducted every July. Last year, Stephen B. Fickett, Game Biologist stationed at Brooksville, and Commission Pilot George Langford conducted the survey, flying a Commission float plane over the assigned transects, and making counts of all waterfowl by means of the naked eye supplemented by binoculars. The favorable 1964 figures resulted in an increase in the bag limit from two to four of these ducks. Even though the bird is "all-Florida," this increased bag limit still had to be cleared through the federal agency.

Florida ducks dominate the July inventory, but there are a few other species always tallied. Most of these are assumed to be cripples unable to make the northern flight. Wood ducks, in small numbers, appear to be going native, and the coot summers here in small numbers.

Fifteen or so ducks overwinter in Florida in populations large enough to be called "common."

Among the surface-feeding ducks (the dabblers or puddle ducks) which prefer the small, shallow

inland lakes, ponds, marshes, are the mallards, black ducks, gadwalls, canvasbacks, baldpates, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, shovellers, pintails, and wood ducks.

The divers, those that feed underwater, are represented by the redheads, canvasbacks, lesser scaups, ringneck ducks, ruddy ducks, and mergansers. Goldeneyes and buffleheads are present in some numbers.

Coot represent about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the overwintering population, and distribute themselves throughout a varied Florida habitat. Not as glamorous as the other members of the family, through it's less demanding nature, it may someday supply the bulk of the duck-hunter's sport as our more desirable wetlands disappear.

Canadian geese and blue geese comprise less than 2% of the wintertime waterfowl population. These birds stay in the St. Marks area although an occasional wanderer is seen in south and central Florida.

We can never turn back the calendar to the "good old days" of duck-hunting prior to the 1930's. Now, five times as many duck hunters crowd into the diminished wetlands after a reduced waterfowl population.

However, the picture is not all black. State, local, and federal agencies are fighting the waterfowl decline through research, management, and wetland acquisition. The perpetuation of quality habitat is being emphasized. Pittman-Robertson federal aid monies are being requested and used by states to help put more ducks in front of more hunters' shotguns.

Florida Commission biologists, through research and management, are doing their share in solving the complex problems in the waterfowl world. ●

About fifteen or so species of ducks winter in Florida in numbers large enough to be called "common." The Mallard, upper right, and the Baldpate, far left, represent the surface-feeding or puddle-ducks. The Canvasback, lower center, represents the diving ducks, those that feed underwater. The Coot, center four birds, is our most abundant species of waterfowl.

Photos By
Wallace Hughes



A youngster receives rifle training at the Conservation Youth Camp of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission in the Ocala National Forest. Graduates of such training are qualified from a safety standpoint, but this program is not available to all young hunting license applicants.

A BILL FOR GUN SAFETY

By CHARLES WATERMAN



SPORTSMEN ARE HOPING Florida will have compulsory firearms education for juvenile hunters before long.

A bill providing such a program was beaten in the last session of the legislature, where it was introduced by Representative Leighton Baker of Mt. Dora.

Baker says his bill was beaten for no good reason. He doesn't think it was studied; he doesn't think it was understood and he points out that there is no specific group or faction against it. The vote was 43 to 61.

Baker, who owns the Peterson Gun Shop in Mt. Dora (that name came from the founder, a famous builder of fine target rifles), is the logical person to back the bill. He's been running hunter safety classes for many years (no pay) and his top score for a year's instruction is 600 youngsters who were taught safe gun handling.

A lot of other Floridians have taught safety courses (no pay, no charge) just for the satisfaction of showing the young people how to handle guns. All of this is on a volunteer basis and, at present, all a hunting license applicant needs is the money to pay for it.

Many outdoorsmen feel that those who need instruction most are least likely to get it.

Baker and his supporters certainly don't consider their bill original. Thirteen states already have man-

datory safety courses that work. House Bill 1388 was simply a copy of the successful California law.

Twenty-two states, including Florida, have voluntary hunter safety courses which are a lot better than nothing but miss a lot of people. Even so, the official graduates of volunteer safety courses in Florida number in the thousands. Since the instruction is not mandatory and since various systems are used, probably many courses have never been reported to the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and National Rifle Association which jointly sponsor instruction.

Some of the courses given over the state probably do not meet the full requirements of approved N.R.A. courses but any good instruction is better than nothing, even if it lasts for only an hour, say Commission officials.

Briefly, the proposed bill would make it mandatory for any person of less than 18 years of age seeking to buy his first hunting license to produce a certificate of competency.

The bill provides that the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission shall provide for a course of instruction in the handling of firearms, issuing certificates of competency upon completion of the course. No charge would be made for the course of instruction except for materials and ammunition consumed.

Who would pay all of the instructors needed for such a program?

Nobody would pay them anything. Right now

there are nearly 300 certified firearms safety instructors in Florida and none of them receive a cent of pay. It is a unique characteristic of the gun lover that he likes to teach safety to youngsters or to anyone else who will listen.

Persons unfamiliar with the gun-lover breed will be shaken to learn that states with compulsory programs *DO* have a little trouble with their instructors—too many applicants! One state official says it's a problem to weed out instructor applications without hurting feelings.

That doesn't mean there wouldn't be a lot of bookkeeping and organizational work but it is pointed out that the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission already has a framework of firearms instruction. The director of the program is James Reed of the Ocala office. He is administering the voluntary program as recommended by the National Rifle Association, compiles an annual firearms accident report and issues certificates to graduates of the approved course.

Using information from each state, the N.R.A. compiles a national firearms accident report each year. The reports help discover the most persistent causes of gun injuries and have been a help in setting up safety instruction.

The N.R.A. has complete instruction materials for safety programs, available at nominal cost. Some states with obligatory instruction adhere strictly to the N.R.A. program. Some have supplemented it with other courses, some have set up their own and Utah puts on an 8-hour firearms course, followed by a 20-hour course in survival, a concession to the West's great wilderness areas.

Baker compiled a summary of objections made by opponents of the bill.

First on the list is the accusation that it is a "hastily thought up bill." He points out that it is a duplicate of a bill that has worked successfully in California. Hunter safety people wrote and studied a

number of bills before deciding on the California version.

Second is the charge that enough instructors could not be secured, thus preventing many youths from getting their licenses. Baker wins this argument hands down by citing the ease with which instructors have been found for the present volunteer program and by quoting officials from other states where compulsory programs are now in effect. In some instances there has been an over supply of instructors.

The third objection is that compulsory safety education would infringe upon the responsibilities of parents. Some parents would feel, it is argued, that safety education should be taught within the home.

It is the contention of the bill's proponents that many parents are not qualified to give their children adequate training in the use of firearms. To rely upon parents for gun education is to assume that all parents of hunting youngsters are hunters or gun users themselves; and furthermore, that they have the background and know-how to do a good job of teaching safety to juveniles.

Many Florida parents do not claim to be proficient teachers of calculus or botany, say the firearms education people. For this reason, there is a school system to do that job. Is there any excuse then to assume that all parents are versed in firearms or, for that matter, know a firing pin from a sling swivel?

There is, in some circles, a prejudice against firearms of any sort for whatever purpose they may be used or intended. There are anti-firearm proposals appearing before legislative bodies of the country each year that make no distinction between hunting rifles and zip-guns. There was a rash of them following the assassination of President Kennedy. Gun safety people say this shows adults don't understand the situation, let alone being competent instructors as a group.

There is no way of making an accurate survey but gun dealers say nearly all rural or small town homes in Florida have a gun of some sort. The count is much lower in large metropolitan areas because hunting grounds are harder to reach and casual practice is impossible.

Gun safety advocates got some lumps a few years back when an attempt was made to give a brief gun safety course to all male students of a Miami high school. The program was set up, the materials were acquired and qualified instructors were ready to go. The sessions had been established in such a way that they would not interfere with regular school work but the experiment was nipped in the bud

(Continued on next page)



Hunter safety materials furnished under the National Rifle Association program include an identification card, instructor's guide and booklets for student study. The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission awards certificates to all those who complete the present voluntary course.

(Continued from preceding page)

when some parents objected to "teaching shooting in school."

The gun safety folks sadly stored their heaps of materials and abandoned that project. However, safety instruction on a volunteer basis continued among the school's students—only for those who asked for it and were willing to learn after school hours.

A former Florida state firearms safety director summarized that situation thus:

"Some parents are not competent to teach firearms safety; some simply won't bother; some don't want their youngsters to have anything to do with guns; some are blissfully ignorant of their youngsters' association with guns despite parental denial; some provide excellent instruction for their children.

"We just don't know which home the young hunting license applicant comes from."

The last objection to the bill listed by Baker is the argument that adults cause many hunting accidents and the program would not touch them. Baker points out that, eventually, most of the adult gun users would have gun safety instruction in their record, having received it in their youth.

In New York, every new license applicant must be qualified from a safety standpoint, regardless of age. There has been no suggestion that we go that far in Florida.

One thing seems certain in light of national statistics. Compulsory hunter safety courses are saving lives and minor accidents are being reduced.

Rhode Island reported an immediate drop in hunting accidents when a safety program was started. Utah, with a heavy increase in hunting pressure noted an immediate reduction of accidents with a better percentage of reduction among juveniles than among adults.

Proof of the pudding is hard to assemble since many factors are involved. It is risky to rely too much on figures that cover only three or four years but the accident rate is definitely down where compulsory safety education is taught.

Baker selected Minnesota as a state where, percentage-wise, the accident rate of youths while hunting was almost exactly the same as in Florida. Before starting the course in Minnesota, youths caused 47% of the firearms accidents. After the course was established, the percentage dropped immediately to 32%.

In Florida, about half of the reported firearms accidents involve youngsters of less than 18 years.

An encouraging note is the Florida acceptance of driver instruction for juveniles—a program in many ways similar to hunter education. The obvious conclusion is that every driver must be qualified before he can get a license while anyone with the money can buy a hunting license if he's old enough.

There are by-products of gun safety education. Instructors, most of whom will be conservationists to a degree, at least, can get in some good licks about wildlife protection, obedience to game and fish laws and current outdoor recreation problems and expansion.

Ardent pacifists, through misunderstanding, often associate any sort of firearms instruction with military training. Safety training, of course, has nothing to do with the military. From the standpoint of developing fighting men, the armed forces aren't much interested although youngsters familiar with firearms might have some small advantage in basic training.

The main object of safety training is the avoidance of accident rather than the teaching of marksmanship although the National Rifle Association makes no secret of a little axe-whetting through its participation in safety training (many state courses are drawn word-for-word from the N.R.A.).

The brief course in safety may interest a youth in shooting to the point that he will inquire about marksmanship training, which may put him into a junior rifle club—a completely different activity with an excellent reputation for developing discipline as well as being a wholesome recreation.

This, of course, makes for more N.R.A. members and the N.R.A. is supported by members, it's activities covering all phases of firearms use, not the least of which is lobbying for or against various firearms legislation.

Most safety courses require a little actual shooting at their conclusion. Twenty-two rimfire rifles are used and most instructors insist on bolt-action guns because they are safe, simple and basic. ●



Leighton Baker of Mount Dora is an ardent supporter of compulsory firearms safety instruction. He has more than ten years service as a safety instructor.



Hunting Season Regulations

1964 - 1965

Resident Game

Bag Limits

DEER (Buck): 1 per day, 2 per season

TURKEY: Nov., Dec., Jan., 2 per day, 3 per season, either sex. March-April Season, gobblers only, 1 per day, 2 per season.

QUAIL: 12 per day, not more than 24 in possession.

GRAY SQUIRREL: 10 per day, not more than 20 in possession.

FOX SQUIRREL: 2 per day, not more than 4 in possession.

Migratory Game Bird Regulations

Mourning Dove

Three Phase Season, shooting hours from 12-noon to sunset.

First Season: October 3 through November 8.

Except Alligator Point, Franklin County, Third District, closed.

Sumter County, north of State Road 48, Fifth District, closed.

Brevard, Flagler, Volusia & St. Johns Counties, Fifth District, closed.

Putnam County, east of St. Johns River, Fifth District, closed.

Second Season: November 14 through November 29, statewide.

Third Season: December 19 through January 4, statewide.

Bag Limits: Daily Limit 12; Possession Limit 24.

Snipe

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 14 to January 2.

Daily Limit 8; Possession Limit 16.

Woodcock

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 14 to January 2.

Daily Limit 5; Possession Limit 10.

DO NOT USE—It is prohibited to use any of the following methods or weapons while hunting: Full-jacketed bullets or .22-calibre rimfire cartridges for taking deer or bear. Fully automatic firearms. Rifles or pistols for taking migratory birds. Cross bow. Taking game over bait. Hunting turkey with dog. Possession of gun and light at night in woods or on waters. Killing swimming deer. Artificial light, fire. Net, trap, snare. Poison. Saltlick. Setguns. Live decoys. Airplane, automobile, power boat, sail boat, or craft under sail, or craft towed by any aforementioned devices. Do not use any of the above while hunting in Florida.

Waterfowl Hunters

A Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. Available at your local post office, at a cost of \$3.00, the 1964-1965 Duck Stamp features Hawaii's Nene Geese. Your name must be signed across face of stamp before hunting.



Waterfowl

Ducks, Geese, Coot

Season: From November 25, 1964 through January 3, 1965.

Shooting Hours: From sunrise to sunset, daily.

<u>Bag Limits</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Possession Limit</u>
Ducks	4 (see notes below)	8
Geese	3	6
Coot	10	20

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks or 2 redheads or 1 of each.

The possession limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks or 2 redheads or 1 of each.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, or 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

South of State Road 50, duck hunters will be allowed to have 4 Florida ducks in their total bag of 4. Last year the Florida duck was classified along with the mallard and black duck and hunters were restricted to 2 per day.

LEON COUNTY will be closed to duck, goose and coot hunting EXCEPT on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, opening day and holidays, and Nov. 27.

(Continued on next page)

General Hunting Regulations

1964 - 1965 Summary



South

Florida

First District

DEER: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday, except DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties which will be open for deer hunting from Nov. 14 through Nov. 22, only.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 13 to March 28 south of State Road 50; March 27 to April 11 in Hernando County north of State Road 50. One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.

QUAIL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

SQUIRREL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking deer or bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties shall be limited to bird dogs, retrievers, and slow trail hounds. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA HUNTS

FISHEATING CREEK Archery Hog Hunts: Jan. 16, 17, 1965; Jan. 23, 24, 1965; Jan. 30, 31, 1965.

In Dixie, Levy, and Gilchrist Counties and in the portion of the Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area lying within Lafayette County, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25 through November 29, and December 23 through January 3.

DEER: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated. **SPECIAL SEASON:** Gilchrist County—November 14-November 22 only. **NO OPEN SEASON**—Bradford County.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated. **NO OPEN SEASON** for turkey in Alachua, Bradford, and Madison Counties. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 27-April 11. Hunting permitted everyday one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon. **NO SPRING GOBBLER SEASON** in Alachua, Bradford, Madison, and Levy Counties.

QUAIL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated.

SQUIRREL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated.

Northeast

Florida

Second District

DEER: November 21-January 17. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPECIAL SEASON:** Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties—November 21-December 6; and December 19-January 3. **NO OPEN SEASON** in Washington and Holmes Counties.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 21-January 17. Hunting permitted everyday. No fall season on Eglin Field. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 27-April 11 one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.

QUAIL: November 21-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

SQUIRREL: November 21-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA HUNTS

EGLIN AREA: Archery Hunt Oct. 24 through Nov. 8, 1964
Antlerless Deer Hunt, Jan. 9, 1965, Special Air Force permit required.

POINT WASHINGTON Raccoon and Fox Hunts, Seminole Hills Tract in Bay County, **guns prohibited**, Sept. 26 to Nov. 8, 1964; Jan. 16 to May 23, 1965. The tract north of State Road 30 to West Bay and east of State Road 79 **closed** Nov. 21 through Jan. 17, open remainder of the year.

Northwest

Florida

Third District

Everglades Region

Fourth District

DEER: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday. No deer hunting on Florida Keys of Monroe County.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 14-January 28. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 13-March 28 one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.

QUAIL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

SQUIRREL: November 14-February 28. Hunting permitted everyday.

Central Florida

Fifth District

DEER: November 14-January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between November 25 and November 29 AND between December 23 and January 3. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the District lying south of State Road 50 and west of St. Johns River.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 14-January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed except during first 9 days and November 25 through November 29 AND December 23 through January 3. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the District lying south of State Road 50 and west of St. Johns River. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 13-March 28, south of State Road 50 and in that portion of the Richloam Wildlife Management Area lying north of State Road 50. March 27-April 11, north of State Road 50. One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.

QUAIL: November 14-February 28. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed except during first 9 days and November 25 through November 29, AND December 23 through January 3. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the District lying south of State Road 50 and west of St. Johns River.

SQUIRREL: November 14-February 28. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed except during first 9 days and November 25 through November 29, AND December 23 through January 3. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the District lying south of State Road 50 and west of St. Johns River.



FLORIDA'S FIVE
DISTRICTS FOR
HUNTING AND TRAPPING

LICENSES

(Issued from office of County Judge)

Exempt—Residents 65 years of age and over; all children under 15.

Costs include County Judges' fees.

Service men, stationed in Florida, are considered residents of Florida insofar as licenses to hunt and fish are concerned.

GAME

Series H — For hunting on licensed private hunting preserves only	\$ 5.50
Series I — Resident County, Game	2.00
Series J — Resident, other than Home County	4.50
Series K — Resident, State	7.50
Series L — Non-Resident, State	26.50
Series M — Non-Resident, 10-day Continuous	11.50
Series M-1 — Non-Resident County, Owners of and paying taxes on 3,000 acres of land	11.50
Series Y — Guide, required for guiding hunting parties. Issued from office of Commission, Tallahassee	10.00
Alien Hunting — Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee	50.00

TRAPPING

Series N — Resident, County	\$ 3.25
Series O — Non-Resident, County	25.50
Series P — Resident, State	25.50
Series Q — Resident, other than Home County	10.50
Series R — Non-Resident, State	100.50

DO NOT HUNT—There is NO OPEN SEASON on the following fully protected species or individuals: Panther, cub bear, Key deer, alligators, crocodiles, spotted or Axis deer, Ross goose, snow goose brant, swan, eagles, hawks, owls, non-game birds, Everglades mink, weasel. Do not molest or hunt any of the foregoing at any time. Killing of doe or fawn deer, or deer with antlers less than five inches in length is prohibited at all times except as permitted on specific Wildlife Management Areas.

ALL ALLIGATORS and crocodiles and their nests, eggs, and young, are fully protected at all times in all parts of the state. Do not hunt, take or molest at any time.

NO PERSON MAY TAKE or possess any alligator, crocodile or black caiman, or their skins or hides or nests or eggs except under permit from the Director of the Commission.



The Diving Ducks, as their name indicates, dive under water for food, and also as a means of escape when danger threatens. They are primarily birds of open water such as bays, off-shore along seacoasts, and larger lakes and streams at the interior. Most divers will patter across the water surface, above, before becoming airborne. "Fish Ducks" like the Red-breasted Merganser, at left, have slender, toothed-bills for seizing fish.



DIVING DUCKS



The Buffhead, lower left in photo above, is the smallest of the diving ducks. It occurs off-shore along the coasts with other divers such as the Canvasback and Scaup Duck, shown in the same photo. Famous for speedy flight, the Canvasback, at left, has been clocked at 72 m.p.h., and rates as excellent for table fare.

Fifteen "kinds" or species of diving ducks have been observed in Florida, some more or less common, some of rare occurrence. They are the Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scaup ducks, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Oldsquaw, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Black Scoter, American Merganser, Redbreasted and Hooded Mergansers. The Redhead, in flight upper right, and center left, is a coastal species that gathers in large flocks offshore and often flies in high goose-like V-formation.

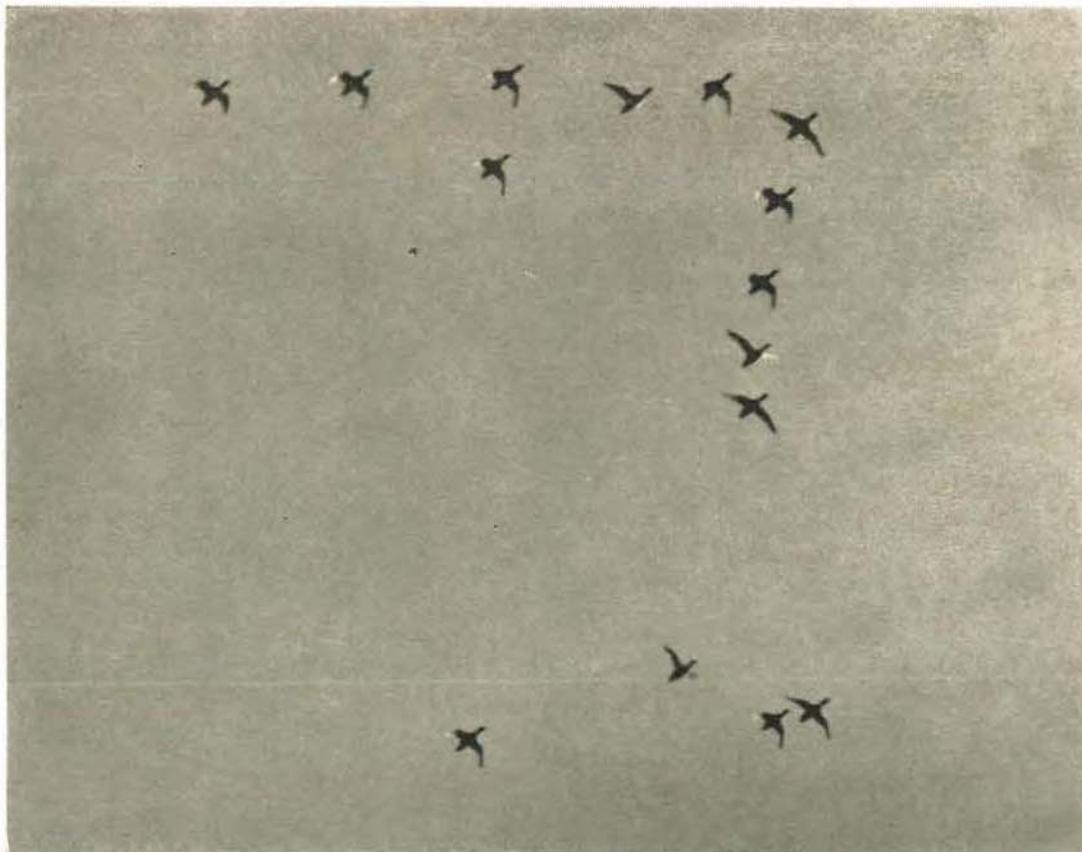
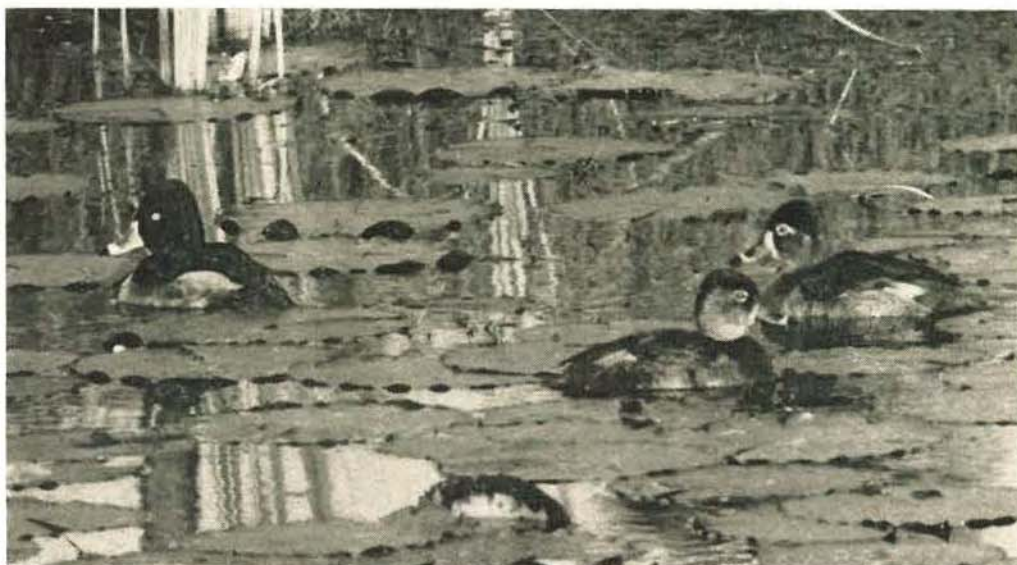


Photo Story

By WALLACE HUGHES

The Ring-necked Duck, right, a drake shown at left, and two hens at right, would be better named "Ring-billed" Duck. A chestnut ring of color around the drake's neck cannot be seen except very close up. It is a fast flyer, and favored food duck.





Florida's Wildlife

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting 31 Wildlife Management Areas as shown below. In addition to a regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the Management Areas.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

A \$5.00 Public Hunting Area Permit, in addition to regular hunting license, is necessary to hunt on most Wildlife Management Areas. Such Permits are secured from any County Judge, or authorized sub-agent, in the state. Special Hunt Permits, as outlined elsewhere in the summary, are required, in addition to regular hunting license, to hunt on Eglin Field, Cecil M. Webb and Citrus Wildlife Management Areas; and for special bear and archery hunts. Special hunt permits are obtained as listed elsewhere in this summary.

Hunters must check in when entering, and check out and report their kill when leaving, at designated checking stations on Wildlife Management Areas where such stations are maintained. On all other areas, hunters are requested to have their deer and turkey checked at the hunt headquarters.

Public Hunting Area Permit and hunting license must be in a hunter's possession as long as he participates in hunt, and must be displayed upon request of a Wildlife Officer "or other commission personnel."

Guns, either assembled or disassembled, or dogs are allowed only during the season designated for each particular wildlife management area except under special permit issued by an authorized representative of the Game Commission. Possession of loaded guns on days when hunting is not permitted and after shooting hours is prohibited.

Dogs must wear collars with name and address of owner attached. Dogs found in refuge areas will be picked up by Wildlife Officers and impounded.

All legal methods for taking game will be permitted, unless prohibited under the special rules governing a particular area. Legal game, daily and season bag limits, and possession limits will be the same on Wildlife Management Areas as for the District within which the areas are located, except as otherwise specified in this summary.

All dates shown in this summary are inclusive.

Fishing permitted on Wildlife Management Areas throughout the year unless otherwise specified. Frogs may not be taken on Management Areas unless otherwise provided.

Deer or bear shall not be dismembered or divided in any Wildlife Management Area, except as provided in the statewide hunting regulations, or as further restricted in this summary.

Camping permitted at designated camp sites on the hunt areas, or in those areas designated by Hunt officials, unless otherwise provided for particular areas. Any camp may be searched at any time by Commission personnel. Fires other than camp fires are prohibited at all times.

Wild hogs are classified as game animals, and may be hunted as such, only on the following Areas: J. W. Corbett, Camp Blanding, Farmton, Richloam, Croom, Citrus, Guano River, Everglades, Avon Park, and Gulf Hammock. Pursuant to Dept. of Agriculture ruling 7C-11, and Chapter 585 of the Fla. Statutes, all hogs must be killed prior to leaving a management area.

The trapping of fur-bearing animals is prohibited on all wildlife management areas unless specifically permitted by regulations governing a particular area.

Intoxicated persons will not be allowed to hunt.

All general regulations pertaining to fresh water fish and wildlife shall apply to Wildlife Management Areas, except as otherwise specified.

Copies of regulations for each hunt, and maps of each area, will be available at checking stations and at the Tallahassee and Regional offices of the Commission, and at the offices of the County Judge in counties containing management areas.

Management Areas



Controlled

Public

Hunting

General Information

1964-1965

All Regulations Subject

to Change

in Case of Emergencies

1. **Blackwater Wildlife Management Area**, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties, in two phases, November 21 to December 6, and December 19 to January 3. Turkey hunting permitted during the break. Open to quail and squirrel hunting to February 28. Special turkey "gobbler only" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail, Squirrel.

2. **Eglin Field Air Force Reservation**, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties, in two phases, November 21 to December 6, and December 19 to January 3. Special turkey "gobbler only" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Quail.

3. **Roy S. Gaskin Wildlife Management Area**, Calhoun, Bay and Gulf Counties, November 21 to January 17. Open to quail hunting to February 28. Special turkey "gobbler only" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Quail.

4. **Apalachee Wildlife Management Area**, Jackson County, November 21 to January 17. Hunting permitted Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Best Hunting: Duck, Quail, Dove, Snipe, Turkey. Spring Gobbler Hunt March 27 to April 11, 1965.

5. **Liberty Wildlife Management Area**, Apalachicola National Forest, Liberty County, November 21 to January 17. Special gobbler season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Bear, Squirrel.

6. **Leon-Wakulla Wildlife Management Area**, Apalachicola National Forest, Leon and Wakulla Counties, November 21 to January 17. Special turkey "gobbler only" season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer.

7. **Aucilla Wildlife Management Area**, Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties, November 14 to January 17. Special turkey "gobbler only" season, March 27 to April 11, Taylor County only. Best Hunting: Deer, Bear, Turkey, Squirrel, Ducks.

8. **Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area**, Dixie and Lafayette Counties, November 14 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 23-January 3. Special turkey "gobbler only" season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel.

9. **Osceola Wildlife Management Area**, Osceola National Forest, Baker and Columbia Counties, November 14 to January 3. Special turkey "gobbler only" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Bear.

10. **Lake Butler Wildlife Management Area**, Columbia, Baker and Union Counties, November 14 to January 3. Special turkey "gobbler only" season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey.

11. **Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area**, Levy County, November 14 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 23-January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel, Ducks, Wild Hogs.

12. **Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area**, Clay County, November 14 to January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail, Wild Hog.

13. **Guano River Wildlife Management Area**, St. Johns County, November 14 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, closed. Best Hunting: Waterfowl, Wild Hogs, Squirrel, Deer, Turkey.

14. **Ocala Wildlife Management Area**, Ocala National Forest, Marion and Putnam Counties, November 14 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 23-January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel.

15. **Tomoka Wildlife Management Area**, Flagler and Volusia Counties, November 14 to January 3. First 9 days open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, closed at all other times, except November 25-29 and December 23-January 3. Special turkey "gobbler only" season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel.

16. **Farnton Wildlife Management Area**, Volusia and Brevard Counties, November 14 to January 3. First 9 days open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, closed at all other times, except November 25-29 and December 23-January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel. Special gobbler season; March 27-April 11.

NEW MANAGEMENT AREAS

29. **St. Regis Wildlife Management Area**, Escambia County. November 21, 1964 through February 28, 1965. Legal to take Quail and Squirrel only.

30. **Point Washington Wildlife Management Area**, Bay and Walton counties. Special dove and fox hunts only, in portions of Bay County. See special regulations for this area.

31. **Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area**, Gadsden and Liberty counties. November 24, 1964 through January 17, 1965. Hunting permitted every day.

17. Citrus Wildlife Management Area

Archery Hunts: October 17 to November 1, 1964; weekends only thereafter through December 6. Also open November 26 & 27, 1964.

Gun Hunts: December 12 & 13, 1964. January 1, 2, 3, 1965.

Quail Hunts: Jan. 9 through Feb. 28, 1965; weekends only.

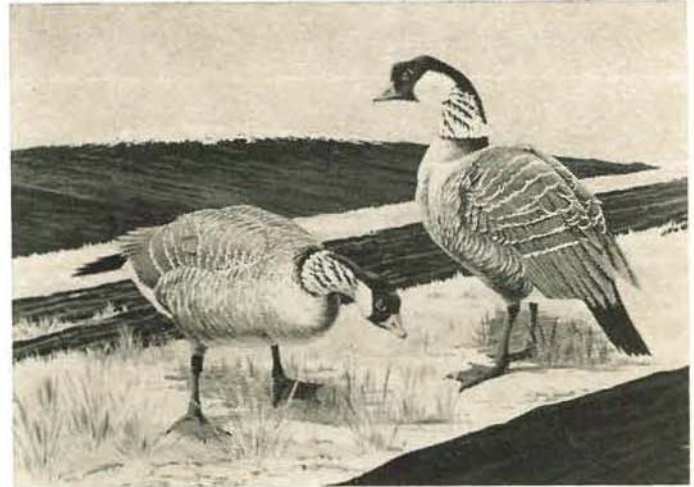
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WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1964-65 Federal migratory waterfowl hunting stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$3.00, the stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

The Hawaiian Nene Goose, shown at right, is featured on the 1964-65 stamp, from a drawing by Stanley Stearns.



(Continued from preceding page)

18. **Croom Wildlife Management Area**, Hernando and Sumter Counties, November 14 to January 3. Gobbler season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Quail, Squirrel.

19. **Richloom Wildlife Management Area**, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco Counties, that portion of the Area North of State Road 50 and West of Slaughter open to every day hunting November 14 to January 3. Remainder of the area (East of Slaughter) open first 9 days November 14-22, then November 27, 28, and 29, December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 and December 24 to January 3. Spring gobbler season March 13 to March 28. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel, Quail.

20. **Avon Park Wildlife Management Area**, Highlands and Polk Counties, November 14 to January 3. Saturdays and Sundays, and following days open November 26-November 29, December 25 to January 3. Gobbler hunt—March 13-14, 20-21, 27-28. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail, Deer.

21. **Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area**, Charlotte County, November 14 to February 28, first 9 days open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, closed at all other times. Best Hunting: Quail, Deer.

22. **Lee Wildlife Management Area**, Lee County, November 14 to January 3, hunting permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

23. **Okeechobee Wildlife Management Area**, Okeechobee County November 14 to January 3. Hunting allowed Saturdays, Sundays, and following days Nov. 26 to Nov. 29; Dec. 24 to Dec. 27; Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail, Deer.

24. **Fishheating Creek Wildlife Management Area**, Glades County, November 14 to January 3. Buck deer season for first time. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail, Squirrel, Deer, Hog.

25. **J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area**, Palm Beach County, November 14 to January 28. Turkey and quail only after January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Quail, Wild Hogs.

26. **Devil's Garden Wildlife Management Area**, Hendry County, November 14 to January 3, hunting permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail.

27. **Everglades Wildlife Management Area**, Palm Beach, Dade, Broward Counties, November 14 to January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Wild Hog, Waterfowl.

28. **Areojet Wildlife Management Area**, Dade County, November 14 to January 3. Best Hunting: Deer.

Hunting

Season

Notes

GUNS—A gun is defined as any device mechanically propelling a projectile; shotgun, rifle, pistol, revolver, air gun, gas gun, blowgun, bow and arrow, or devices.

SOUTH AMERICAN CAIMAN of any size, other than the Black Caiman, may be imported and sold when not advertised or represented as alligators. Wherever Caiman are advertised as "Baby Alligators" the words "South American Caiman" must be shown immediately beneath the words, and in letters not less than half the size of the words or letters, used in writing "Baby Alligator." No alligator or American crocodile may be sold. Dealers are subject to inspection and must possess invoices or documentary evidence that such caiman were imported.

Shooting Hours

Resident Game—From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Mourning Dove—From 12-noon to sunset.

Other Migratory Game—Waterfowl, Marsh Hen (rails and gallinules), Woodcock and Snipe, from sunrise until sunset.

HOLIDAYS AND OPENING AND CLOSING DAYS—During any season or in any locality where specified individual days of the week are closed to hunting for any species, such days shall be open on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Opening Day and the Closing Day for any species is always open for that species. Whenever Christmas Day or New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following such Sunday shall be open.

BEAR HUNTING—The bear is a game animal and may be taken only during the open season for taking of deer, and during managed bear hunts. No open season in Ocala National Forest.

WILD HOGS—Declared as game animals in specified Wildlife Management Areas, and in Palm Beach and Alachua counties. Wild hogs may be taken during the open season designated for each Area. **BAG LIMITS:** ONE (1) Per Day; TWO (2) Per Season; Except FOUR (4) Per Season on Camp Blanding Management Area.

SEX EVIDENCE—Evidence of the sex, along with the heads, must remain on the carcasses of ALL DEER—and TURKEY during the Spring Gobbler Season—while in camp or forest. DOES, or BUCKS with less than 5-inch antlers, taken during special "ANY DEER" Hunts, must be tagged by Hunt Official.

Boating resolution calls for sound
up-dated enforcement policies

Winter Cruising

By ELGIN WHITE



WHEN WINTER WINDS come down like icy blasts out of the frigid northwest, blanketing America's northland with snow and temperatures hovering near the zero mark, they sometimes send a chilling finger into Florida.

But it doesn't call a halt to boating.

In the Florida Keys, a jewel-like series of islands set in an incredibly green sea, genuine cold weather is unknown. Key West, at the foot of the Keys, truthfully boasts it has never known frost.

Small powerboat skippers have never had it so good.

Many people forget that Florida is more than 500 miles long from north to south—it's actually more than 800 miles from Pensacola, in the northwest end of the state, to the Florida Keys. It adds up to a lot of latitude, and when temperatures drop in the northern part of the state, influenced by nearby blizzards just a state or three away, the sun still shines warmly in the sub-tropical section. The islands still glitter in the sea.

The northern outboard skipper who trails his boat south can find memorable boating adventures in the Keys, enjoying shirtsleeve weather when the remainder of the nation is battling blizzards and America's skippers elsewhere are huddled around indoor heaters.

If he trails his boat to Miami and continues on U. S. Highway 1 south, he speedily enters "Boatin' Country." It starts at Homestead, just 30 miles below Miami. Although a small farming

town, it is close to wonderful waterways and boasts no fewer than three large marine dealers—all on U. S. 1. Advice on local cruising, including boating in the nearby Everglades National Park, is easily obtained.

Next stop, and the real beginning of the Keys, is Jewfish Creek. Two fishing camps, each with ample docking space, ramps, and lifts, offer accommodations. From here you can explore a chain of bays and sounds that lead into huge Florida Bay—600 square miles of island-dotted water.

Then you can trail your boat south on the famed Overseas Highway, scheduling halts at Tavernier, Islamorada, Marathon and even Key West. All have marine dealers able to cope with boating problems; all have charts, fuel, supplies, ramps, and can fill any boating need.

Nearby waters are clearly marked. The Intracoastal Waterway runs alongside of the main string of islands. Boatmen who stay near the main islands can always find quiet, protected, sunny coves for fishing and idling away a day afloat almost in privacy. Those who are expert boat-handlers, knowing how to use compass and charts, can explore distant islands and shoal banks; some islands have delightful, rarely visited beaches and some of the banks have truly fabulous fishing to offer.

But most important of all, the sun is a constant companion. In fact, too close a companion to those who live in the islands stretching down from Florida's

foot. Accustomed through the years to the truly tropical temperatures of the summer season, the native skippers reach for heavier clothing when the temperature falls to a mere 70.

It's true. The visiting boatman basks in what his northern blood assures him is warm and sunny weather, while he reads—even gloats over—newspaper accounts of icy blasts back in his hometown. But the local boatman in the Keys wears a sweater (or two) in the same, seventy-ish air. To him, it's cold weather!

That's "winter" in the Florida Keys.

PLEASURE BOATMEN throughout the nation are hailing action taken recently by boating administrators of eight states who have gone on record unanimously in opposition to proposals to require motorboat operators to obtain a license.

Fred Lifton, executive director of the Outboard Boating Club of America, described the resolution as "a significant blow to proposals that would impose additional restrictions on boatmen who have proved that such laws are unnecessary and unjustified by maintaining an outstanding record for safety and responsibility."

The resolution was passed at a meeting in Clearwater October 20 of boating administrators from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia.

The resolution points out that "boating accident statistics . . .

(Continued on next page)

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fail to show that involvement in accidents is, in fact, related to factors which any system of licensing would substantially reduce or eliminate."

Instead of licensing the resolution recommends greater emphasis on boating safety education and more extensive enforcement of existing boating laws in furthering boating safety.

This writer agrees. We have seen a fine start made towards proper enforcement of the laws here in Florida by the effective Florida Boating Council. The only lack the Council's patrols has is small numbers. The Boating patrol is most efficiently operated but is simply not large enough to patrol the vast water areas in Florida that must be patrolled . . . particularly the heavily populated urban areas.

Licensing won't help in the prevention of accidents on water any more than it does in an automobile. But good law enforcement will. We have good existing laws . . . some need up-dating and revamping, true, but in essence our enforcement policies are basically sound. The fact that some cowboy has a license to operate doesn't make him any less a cowboy on the water.

WHEN YOU'RE CRUISING along, particularly in waterways where there is federal jurisdiction, have you ever run across some sights that are downright mystifying?

Bob Brewster sends along many examples . . . barrels or kegs atop poles set in the water; latticework structures of many and unusual shapes and colors; masonry towers with round objects set on poles atop them; and piles set in the water and surmounted by objects of various shapes.

These are not fugitives from surrealist art exhibitions somehow come to rest in the water, says Brewster. They're just "day-beacons" and are a form of navigation aid erected by the government to supplement more common

types of buoys or to provide sighting marks to assist vessels in negotiating narrow or tricky channels.

For the most part they are for the guidance of larger craft. The reason for their many shapes and colors is to make each one readily identifiable. Each is listed and described in the official Light Lists used by navigators.

There is one, in particular, that the outboard operator should know about and heed. This one consists of a pole or pile rising from the water and surmounted by a board on which an arrow is painted. It means that the channel is on the side toward which the arrow points. Heed such daymarkers, especially during periods of low water.

FOR THOSE OF YOU who are party poopers and don't really care about boating in the wintertime (and what treats you're missing, especially here in Florida!), here are some hints on winter storage of boating equipment:

Many boat owners seem quite unconcerned about putting boating equipment into winter storage while it's still damp.

This invites rot, stains, corrosion and mildew.

Since the anchor line normally comes home soaking wet, it is

quite apt to be put away in this condition. This is why many a boater has found his line to be full of "mysterious" weak spots months later.

If it is salty or muddy, rinse in clear water, coil loosely and hang where it can dry thoroughly and remain that way all winter.

Unless your boat is stored under cover during the fall, dead leaves may collect in it. If not removed, they'll pack down and form ideal breeding places in the spring for rot in wooden boats. In metal or plastic craft they can cause localized corrosion and discoloration to the finish.

Incidentally, don't park your boat under a pine tree this winter. Droplets of pitch will cover its topsides. These droplets come from spots where the needles have fallen off. This care should be taken especially by boaters in northern and central Florida where pine trees are more prevalent.

And when you're storing your boat . . . don't put the top down! Keep the canvas top raised so it will not mildew.

Hang life jackets and buoyant seat cushions on a clothesline to dry well, just as you do with your anchor and mooring lines.

And here's a little reminder . . . the Coast Guard ruling now in effect says that after January 1,



This lightweight "flyin' flivver" is designed primarily for youngsters, but will transport two adults at speeds up to 20 m.p.h. with a 10 horse motor.

1965, buoyant seat cushions whose kapok isn't enclosed in plastic bags will not be acceptable. Better check 'em now to see if they pass.

OUR GOOD FRIEND Woody Kepner of Miami called and said from early indications the 1965 Miami International Boat Show at Dinner Key Auditorium in February should be the greatest in history.

Last year's attraction drew more than 154,000 boating enthusiasts, and the Miami show now ranks with the New York and Chicago exhibits as the three largest in the world.

Boat Show president Bob Gardner stated that reports from exhibitors indicate tremendous sales and traffic satisfaction over last year's show, and more than 300 displays are anticipated for the 1965 extravaganza.

Your reporter has been to the Miami shindig every year for the past five years, and it is true enough, they get bigger 'n better each time.

In fact, in the past two showings, a special circus tent (king size) has been erected alongside the auditorium to handle the over-flow of exhibitors and crowds.

THOSE NEW 120-lb. "flyin' flivvers" manufactured by Haines Products of Winter Haven are really a barrel of fun.

I have handled these li'l contraptions at those press shindigs the Merc folks hold every year, and they have a race between the various writers to see who can really claim to be a boat-handlin' hot-rod. I must admit, rather shame-faced, too, that yours truly has never won one of these events, but I always have a good excuse . . . the boat I get is always the slowest in the bunch. Harrumph!

Seriously, they are a lot of fun, and you will find they are very safe, easily portable, and can transport two adults at speeds over 20 m.p.h. with a small 10 horse motor. ●



An experienced fish hook dodger can pull both head and neck inside his shirt without moving his feet; is only mildly apprehensive of head whistling plug.

Anglers Menaced

ONE FLORIDA fishing guide operates in a construction worker's hard hat.

Even the construction helmet isn't good enough for real, experienced sideswipers. He has more scars than an eighteenth century duelist, dodges faster than a featherweight champion and can duck his whole head and neck inside his shirt without moving his feet.

But he says you can't get away from all of them.

"I'm not as young as I used to be," he says. "I use more tact than when I first started."

After the first near miss, he mentions to his customer that if he should get badly hooked he'd have to go to town for a tetanus shot and the day's fishing would be ruined.

Sometimes he jumps overboard to avoid a whistling lure hoping his client will notice and be more careful. However, sitting in wet clothes the rest of the day is very uncomfortable, even in Florida.

Once snagged, a guide has several choices. He can laugh uproariously so his customer won't feel badly or he can admit to grave injury in hope of a generous tip. If not completely disabled he can jovially go through fish-like movements while the customer plays him. That way, the cast isn't entirely wasted. Guides who are thinking of taking up some other line of work

can often gain great satisfaction from breaking an oar over the caster's head.

On bridges, piers and deep sea boats the lures and sinkers are extremely heavy and there is a knack to absorbing the shock of impact without going overboard. Some pier fishermen whirl the bait around several times before letting fly. Many an experienced hook dodger has ducked successfully once and bobbed up triumphantly, only to be clobbered on the next pass.

There is one advantage to being snagged by heavy tackle. The victim can be retrieved if well-hooked and the fisherman can get a few kicks in doing it.

Trickiest of all is the caster who simply swings his lure back over his shoulder. Since he is facing the other way he is less likely to notice he has a guide or fellow fisherman on the line so to speak and will follow through strongly. This is especially disturbing when the victim is hooked in the nose or ear.

Anglers can prepare themselves for emergencies by watching medical shows on television. Along this line a proposed "Ben Casey Hook Removal Kit" may eventually be marketed, along with a lead bullet for the victim to bite while work is in progress.

In the meantime, agility, Blue Cross and the spirit of a good loser will have to suffice. ●

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

elling conclusion emerges from an excellent new book, "Waterfowl Tomorrow," the most comprehensive volume ever written on North American waterfowl and their habitat.

Composed of 69 chapters and containing 784 pages, "Waterfowl Tomorrow" is the cooperative undertaking of 103 authors from all parts of the continent. Each chapter is the product of writers intimately familiar with their subject, and the text is illustrated with 194 photographs plus additional sketches and maps. A project of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the attractive book was edited by Joseph P. Linduska, director of public relations for the Remington Arms Company, Arnold L. Nelson, assistant to the director of the Bureau, served as managing editor, and the more than 80 pencil drawings are from the board of Bob Hines, well-known wildlife artist.

This monumental story of the past, present, and future of North American waterfowl is presented in 11 sections: The Introduction, a panoramic view of waterfowl on this changing continent; The World of Waterfowl, a detailing of the many species, their habits and needs; Duck Factories—The Big Three, a review of the main breeding grounds of Canada and Alaska; More Duck Factories, a description of duck-producing habitats outside the main northern range; Goose and Swan Factories, an account of breeding and wintering grounds and migratory routes; Down the Flyways, an incisive look at the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways; Nature at Work, a description of the forces, beginning with glaciation and continuing with climate, weather, predators, diseases, and other factors important to waterfowl; Men at Work, a review of man's influences, good and bad, and ways to aid ducks

and geese; Places to Hide—and Seek, an account of refuges and other places reserved for migratory birds; A Helping Hand, the thrust and burden of waterfowl management; and Waterfowl Tomorrow, a commentary on the values and uses of waterfowl in the future and international planning.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. at a bargain-basement price of \$4 a copy, "Waterfowl Tomorrow" also may be purchased in any quantity by sportsmen's and conservation clubs, wildlife agencies, and others for resale purposes at a 25 percent discount. Letters accompanying orders should specify that the books are intended for resale purposes in order to obtain the authorized discount. Canadians may order the book from the Queen's Printer in Ottawa.

"Waterfowl Tomorrow" is not intended solely for the hunter. Rather, it is intended for all persons interested in the tremendous migratory waterfowl resource, whether they capture a duck, a goose, or a swan with camera, binocular, unaided eyeball, or shotgun. It is a book that is dedicated to frank and full discussion of opportunities and obstacles confronting the desire of most men to perpetuate a valuable continent-wide resource in face of man's sometimes wasteful exploitation of the land and water on which that resource depends. It is, in short, a book for all North Americans, because it is a report on the past, the present, and the future of a part of their natural heritage.

The outlook is not black. "Hab-

Even youngsters know better, but countless adults break the law by shooting signs on refuges and wildlife management areas. To deface, remove, or change such signs in any manner is a violation of Florida's wildlife code.

itat for tomorrow is still available; the breeding stock is adequate; and a good management program with long-range planning is underway," writes Daniel H. Janzen in the book's concluding paragraph. "These are the necessary ingredients. Whether they will be dissipated through lack of interest and aggressive support is entirely up to the public. If enough citizens believe that the perpetuation of waterfowl is important; the job will be done. It is not too late."

Armadillo Cookery

THE FLORIDA Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission urges hunters to utilize as food armadillos killed while hunting other game during the 1964-65 season. Often the animals are shot and left untouched in the field, officials said, resulting in a waste of good table fare.

Hunters are told by Frank Winston, game biologist, that properly cleaned, dressed and cooked, the armor-plated digger and insect-eating mammal has a table flavor of pork when barbecued, baked or fried.

Looked upon as a pest by some, the armadillo has drawn the scorn of hunters, landowners and gardeners, yet Winston says that extensive studies made by game biologists in Texas, New Mexico and Florida have disproved many of the charges made against the armadillo.

Since it digs and roots for insects, it makes holes in lawns, flower beds and pastures. Yet, by eradicating harmful insects and anthills the armadillo pays dividends for his digging privileges. In making its den, it uses natural cavities, rarely ever digging the holes that injure livestock, as often charged.

Winston also said that no evidence has been found in hundreds of armadillo vital organs collected and studied that the animal eats the eggs of quail or other ground-



Photo By Jim Reed

SPECIAL AWARD—Carlos L. Reynolds, right, receives special award as Florida's outstanding Wildlife Officer. Presenting the award is Mr. Abe Tunnison, assistant director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.—Reynolds, of Sarasota, was selected for the award on the basis of his overall performance and efficiency ratings made annually by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

nesting birds, or does any damage to man or game.

A sharp skinning knife and a pair of tin snips to cut through belly muscles, breast and pelvic bones, and to shear off the feet and head, are the only tools needed to dress an armadillo for the table. The shell is easily removed once the under-belly skin is cut near the bony plate.

In shooting, a head shot is recommended. Body shots often are not deadly, and rupture vital organs, making cleaning unpleasant when body kills are made.

Winston recommends seasoning with salt, pepper and butter, and rubbing with mustard or one's favored sauce, and barbecuing or baking in foil until done and tender. Armadillos also may be fried as pork, or stuffed with sweet potatoes and baked, he said.

More detailed step-by-step information about "how to dress an armadillo" and "armadillo cooking recipes" may be obtained by writing the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 2202 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland, Florida.

Homes For Wildlife

"MAKING A HOME for Wildlife on the Land," a 4-color booklet that tells the story of the use of soil and water conservation practices in rural areas, is the newest of a series of educational cartoon-type publications of the Soil Conservation Society of America. It emphasizes that conservation treatment of agricultural lands can improve the habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and fish.

The color illustrations faithfully portray the many species of wildlife found on farms. The story of soil conservation is woven into a narrative about the experiences of an urban family at a vacation farm. Conservation farming, which involves proper land and water use, they find, can benefit wildlife.

Copies of "Making a Home for Wildlife on the Land" are available from the Society, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, Iowa, at 20 cents each in quantities up to nine. A sliding discount scale is provided for larger orders.

Outdoor Recreation Votes

THE VOTERS of three states—California, Rhode Island and Washington—approved outdoor recreation bond issues at the Nov. 3 elections.

In California, a \$150 million bond issue—the largest state outdoor recreation bonding measure yet proposed—was approved by a margin of 3 to 2.

Rhode Island's \$5 million "Green Acres" bond issue carried 2 to 1.

Washington voters approved a \$10 million bond issue, 7 to 5. A second Washington ballot proposal—to earmark \$1½ million in state motorboat fuel taxes for shoreline acquisition and development and to better organize the state government to meet outdoor recreation needs—also was approved, 5 to 3.

In Washington, D. C., the Citizens Committee for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Report said the election results are consistent with successes of similar bonding proposals in other states the last five years.

"In every state where the people have been asked directly to decide whether they are willing to pay the price of a better outdoor future for themselves and their children, the answer has been 'yes'," Joseph W. Penfold, chairman of the committee, said.

Since 1960 voters also have approved outdoor recreation bonding measures in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida.

Penfold said the Nov. 3 election results also are consistent with actions of Congress this year in enacting the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. This new law provides for matching Federal grants-in-aid to State and local governments for outdoor recreation planning, land acquisition and development. ●

FISHING

(Continued from page 11)

I'll defend the guy who says they're the same thing. Depends on what kind of a plug casting rod he wants. If he likes it whippy with a small tip, the chances are that the spincast rod is just what he'd buy if out after a new baitcasting outfit.

But there *IS* something in the name. The manufacturer generally considers a plug stick a little stiffer.

THE GLASS RODS with no metal in the ferrules are still working. Far as I know, only one firm makes them—Fenwick of Long Beach, Calif., and the only ones I've seen were fly rods.

I guess they had some troubles at first but I haven't heard of any sticking lately. I've used two of them.

A FISH HOOKED on a big plug isn't likely to run far. He'll fight hard enough but covering distance is pretty tough.

Plug-hooked bass, for example, usually have the plug in such a way that the line has leverage on their jaws. The fish can't hold a straight course because the pull comes from one side. So he resorts to short tugs.

Plug-hooked fish are often strong on aerial display, being able to locate exactly what's holding them and trying to throw it. A deeply-taken bait is almost the opposite. There's nothing to throw and the fish doesn't have anything specific to rebel against.

Very small, single-hooked lures and flies will get the most fight out of a bass but, on the other hand, there is likely to be less wild threshing and a gently played fish is apt to slow down to contemplate his strange discomfort.

The abrasive action of a bass mouth doesn't often have any effect on a line attached to a big plug. Generally the mouth doesn't



Ted Smallwood used original methods in making this 14-pound snook take a fly, but it's the type of system that would work on other game fish.

actually get closed over the line or leader.

Small lures that hook up all the way inside the mouth offer ample opportunity for the fish's mouth to wear out the line.

Old timers at the game of catching big fish on very light lines and leaders generally vote for putting on all the pressure the rig will stand. The longer you play a fish, they say, the more things that can go wrong.

All users of ultra-light tackle will benefit from the stunt of fastening their lines to a post and learning just what they will take.

MOST OF THE advertising literature on new spinning reels stresses the use of new and stronger pickup bails—long the weakest link in conventional spinning reels.

Despite the missionary work of those who use reels with manual line pickup, most of those sold today come with bails.

I've heard an experienced fish-

erman say that he never saw an angler go back to a bail after a few hours fishing without one. I can't say that but the manual spinning reel is about as trouble-proof as anything you can fish with.

SOMEBODY GOT a little excited the other day when I said you could cast farther with a plug casting (conventional turning spool) reel than with a spinning reel.

The reason is that spinning line comes off in large coils and must be "tamed," either by the nose of a closed-face reel or by the first guide on the rod. With a free-running, light-spooled casting reel, the resistance of the turning spool is less than that of the line slap of the spinning rig.

What about the level wind apparatus? Well, it slows the cast some but not enough to offset the spinning "slap".

Narrow spool better for long casts than wide spool? Not with a level wind. The more frequent changes of direction by the pawl on the narrow reel reduce distance more than the greater line angle that must be suffered with the wide spool.

ROD LENGTHS are a matter of personal preference but fly fishing authorities are wont to come forth with flat statements as to the "correct" length. I've seen beautiful casting done with sticks ranging from five feet to ten feet.

Except for special purposes, I am firmly convinced that eight to nine feet covers the most practical lengths and if pressed to select one all-around length, I'd pick 8½ feet without hesitation.

As Father Time gradually gets in his licks on my right arm, I find myself using the 9½-footer less all the time and the 7-footers are gathering dust—both of them being more work for me than those happy-medium jobs around 8½ feet.

And I don't need as many rods as I used to. Those "special pur-

pose" stocks aren't nearly as special as they once were and if you took away all but one of my rods, I'd get along just about as well. It's 8½ feet long.

LONG-SHAFT outboard motors are increasingly popular for fishing in big waters. That means, of course, that the boats have higher transoms as defense against following seas.

Outboard motors are made, you know, in two standard lengths. The short-shafter won't work on

a high transom and the long shaft is a nuisance on a low transom.

What's the problem?

I was talking the other day to a Keys boat livery operator who said his rental boats have high transoms and the tourists who want to rent them have short-shaft motors.

All of the fresh water rental boats I've seen take regular short shaft motors.

THEY MAY NOT meet Coast Guard specifications for safety,

but there are some little automatically-inflated life-saving gadgets that take up little room when fastened to your fishing clothing.

For fishermen who aren't strong on swimming and have extra fear of the water, these little dinguses aren't awkward to wear and might be wise equipment *IN ADDITION TO* regular boat cushions or life jackets.

There are several types but one particular brand that comes to mind is the Res-Q-Pak, hardly larger than a pack of smokes. ●

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from page 9)

If general assembly and sight screws show wear or unsightly burrs, the gun has been worked on, for one reason or another.

Trigger pull should be clean and crisp, neither too hard nor too light, preferably without undue "creep." The engaging sear should hold the trigger firmly until manually released. Beware of a used gun with an unusually light trigger pull; it is apt to be unsafe. For a target rifle, the recognized minimum is a three pound trigger pull, and a 3½-4½ pound trigger pull is about right for the average sporting firearm. The .45 caliber handguns demand a pull of not less than four pounds, for safety in average hands.

Safeties should be worked repeatedly to see that they work full time.

Make sure that extractors function, and that ejectors flip out empties without fail.

Serial numbers should, of course, match wherever they appear on a used gun, and should be legible, never obviously altered or obscured.

In a shotgun, whether it is a pump-action, a double, or an autoloader, check to see if it has a tight unbroken stock, a tight breech, a positive safety and a barrel free of dents.

Give the shotgun a general

shooting and patterning test. If a used shotgun swells the brass heads of fired loads to an extent that bulges can be seen or felt, that shotgun needs the attention of a good gunsmith!

In the double barrel type, a worn hinge-pin will cause looseness at the breech.

A used handgun calls for more extensive and specialized examination than that given a used rifle or shotgun; pistols have certain physical characteristics and idiosyncrasies all their own.

Make sure that the handgun has not acquired a cracked or warped frame from having been dropped.

In revolvers, see that the cylinder locks firmly into position when the hammer is cocked, and that each chamber lines up precisely with the barrel. Firing pin nicks on edges of the chambers of a rim-fire revolver suggest that cylinder is out of alignment. Space between the revolver's frame and crane is another indication of a cylinder whose chambers do not line up with the barrel.

If, as sometimes happens, the bored chambers move beyond their point of exact alignment with the barrel, chances are that the rebound lever is out of line, allowing the cylinder bolt to rise too late to perform its full job of locking the cylinder in precise alignment with the barrel.

Check each chamber for rust and pits; see that none is swelled from firing an overload.

Aside from customary barrel inspection, look for tiny cracks at the thin, breech-end near the cylinder. The metal at that point is thinner and more subject to cracking than at other points.

Double-action revolvers should be smooth; the backward movement of the hammer should be without roughness, jerkiness, rasping or grinding sound.

Check the smooth functioning of the ejector rod and the strength of the mainspring and firing pin indentation on fired cases.

Examine the recoil plate forming the hole through which the firing pin plunges; it should not be loose or cracked.

Insist on test firing *all* offered autoloading or so-called "automatic" firearms, to check the positive function of the disconnecter, that very essential part which spaces the shots just enough to keep the gun from going maxim or full-automatic. It should not be so badly worn that it fails to do its job of making you squeeze and release the trigger for each shot fired.

While the only true proof of a wise secondhand gun buy is in its post-purchase performance, the suggested inspections should help you acquire a used firearm worthy of your investment. ●

DOGS - HUNTING

(Continued from page 7)

around. Unlike other books on the subject, "Water Dog" offers fresh information on how a retriever learns, and how his master can best make use of this information.

The present training system in which retrievers are left pretty much to themselves and receive little or no training until at least six months of age, is exploded in this book. According to Richard A. Wolters, the training starts when the pup is exactly 49 days old. This is not a hat in the mouth sort of theory, but an accelerated dog training system based on sound research that was done in conjunction with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

Much of Mr. Wolters book on

retriever training, especially in the advance training phases, will not come as any great surprise to those who have trained retrievers, as the general system is the same. The book does, however, provide some proven short cuts that will achieve the same results. Mr. Wolters system of training on the whistle will sound a familiar note with Florida dog trainers who are acquainted with David D. Elliot and Jack Lauder, both outstanding dog trainers who just happened to originate in Scotland and for years have utilized the same whistle training program as employed in training sheep dogs.

The book "Water Dog" will surely produce some screams, especially among the school that believed in waiting and not push-

ing the pup into training. The book does not advocate pushing a dog but rather advances early training based on a sound and proven program.

The book, selling for \$5.95, is available from E. P. Dutton & Company, 201 Park Avenue South, New York 3, N. Y., provided you can not locate it at your favorite book store. Regardless where you get your copy, you surely should add it to your library, especially if you fall in the category of being a dog owning duck hunter. The text of "Water Dog" is clear, informative, readable and humorous. It contains 285 outstanding photographs which illustrate step-by-step training procedures. In every way it is a book that you should have. ●

TO WALK ALONE

(Continued from page 5)

He was positive that he could make a fortune. However, when the muskrat population reached a certain density, the animals began to kill one another. The killing ceased only when the population was drastically reduced. He then tried beaver, and they also killed one another when the area became overcrowded. I cannot help but wonder if the human population is not approaching the same frustrations as did the muskrats and the beaver.

The industrial monster has become so sacred that our conservation leadership is afraid to probe its vitals for disease; but, even with recreation as a temporary escape valve, people may become so numerous as to destroy their outdoor recreation. They will destroy it if they are not taught a sense of individual responsibility. Then where do they escape to?

More and more have our rural populations left the land and trekked to the cities to be swallowed up and lose their identity within the maw of the industrial monster. If concrete canyons are

the epitome of all human fulfillments, why does anyone wish to go back to the country? Transplanted country-bred people may develop a nostalgia for the elusive dreams of youth; others are seeking some means of escape like the muskrats and beaver, but tragically they take the city image with them so that they can endure the country. They can only take the bucolic life in small doses. The metropolitan complex is fast destroying the rural atmosphere and continues to engulf the hinterlands.

Thoreau once stated: "I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself than be crowded on a velvet cushion." The time is approaching when there will not be enough pumpkins to go around, and in all probability the velvet cushion would soon be encircled with litter.

Today there is increasing emphasis on farm recreation. I am not much impressed with Farm Home Administration loans for farm fishing ponds, golf courses and merry-go-rounds, but a farm vacation could be extremely educational to city neophytes. This

could be an experience of much more value than water skiing or camping in a trailer city.

The city guest would learn some of the fundamentals of America's rural economy and the importance of land and the people who occupy the land. They would learn firsthand where milk, butter, eggs, meat, vegetables, and bread come from. Old and young would benefit from simple jobs such as hoeing the garden, gathering eggs, pitching hay, picking berries. They could take the cows to and from the pasture; they would become familiar with domestic and wildlife firsthand.

They would discover to their astonishment that some people work more than 40 hours a week and no overtime; that nature can be cruel with droughts and too much rain; that in the last analysis nature is unforgiving when man presumes to violate her laws.

Such vacations would be of value for city folks. They might eventually learn that recreation is a privilege and not a right, and that all things man desires, both spiritual and material, come from the land. ●

FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY



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is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

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The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

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Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

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Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

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.....4 pounds or larger

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.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

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.....2 pounds or larger

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.....2 pounds or larger

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.....1 pound or larger

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